

12 DAY TOUR

ROCK TO TOP END

ITINERARY SUGGESTION

INCLUSIONS:-

- ◆ Coach Transport with a Friendly & Professional Driver(s)
- ◆ Safari Trailer & Camping Equipment (tents, bed rolls, stools, tables etc)
- ◆ Accommodation (including camping fees)
- ◆ Freshly prepared Meals by one of our experienced Safari Cooks
- ◆ Attractions / Entries (as selected)
- ◆ Airfares
- ◆ Melbourne Airport Transfers

Starting at Uluru and finishing at the top of Australia, this tour will show you Australia's outback in all its splendour. From the magnificent 'Rock', to cruises in Katherine Gorge and Yellow Water Billabong, Kakadu and finishing in the Northern Territories capital city, Darwin, everyone will go home from this tour with a life time of memories.

DAY 1:-

D

Our coach will arrive at school to transport you to the airport in time to catch your flight to Uluru.

On arrival at Ayers Rock Airport, your Coach Captain for the rest of this tour, will be waiting to take you to camp to unload luggage and set-up your tents.

As the sun starts to go down we head to the **'Rock'** for soft drinks and nibbles as we watch the famous **sunset at Ayers Rock**. As the sun sets, watch the rock change colours. Our first dinner together will be at camp to-night.



Overnight:- Ayers Rock Campground—Camping

DAY 2:-

B/L/D

After breakfast, we return to the 'Rock' where an Accredited Guide will take you on a tour. Your guide will teach you about the history and culture of the local **Anangu people**. Hear the meaning of the centuries old rockart painted around the base of the rock. Anangu paintings are created for religious and ceremonial expression and for teaching and storytelling.

Afterwards, visit the **Cultural Centre** or book into one of their talks (school to organise and pay) or take a walk around this mammoth rock.

One of the great natural wonders of the world, **Uluru/ Ayers Rock** towers above the surrounding landscape.

Geologists say their formation began about 550 million years ago. Uluru is not only a spectacular natural formation, but its a deeply spiritual place. You can feel a powerful presence the moment you first set eyes on it.

For the local Aboriginal people, the Anangu, World Heritage-listed Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park holds a special cultural significance.

DAY 2:-continued

B/L/D

We return to camp for lunch before boarding our coach again, this time to visit **Kata-Tjuta** or **The Olga's**, as these rock formations are better known.

The Olga's is a group of large, domed rock formations or bornhardts. After watching the **sunset at the Olga's** (weather & time permitting), we return to camp for dinner and our last night at Uluru.

Overnight:- Ayers Rock Campground—Camping

DAY 3:-

B/L/D

We depart Uluru and head straight to **Kings Canyon** today, where you can choose from a number of walks, all differing from reasonably easy to the more difficult Kings Canyon **'Rim Walk'**. The Rim Walk is the most famous and spectacular. The first part of the walk is an ascent of 1000 steps, with several places to stop and rest, however if you take it slow and easy, you'll find that the rest of the walk is pretty easy going once you've reached the top!



After our afternoon of exercise and beautiful scenery, we board our coach for the last time today and head to the Kings Canyon Resort Campground to set-up camp for the night.

Enjoy some free time at the camp or maybe go for a swim, before dinner.

Overnight:- Kings Canyon Resort Campground—Camping

DAY 4:-

B/L/D

Packing up camp once again, we depart for **Alice Springs**.

On arrival, we visit **ANZAC Hill Lookout**. The lookout offers a panoramic view of Alice Springs and the beautiful surrounding ranges.

DAY 4:-continued

B/L/D

The Anzac Hill Memorial was unveiled on 25 April 1934 (Anzac Day) and was originally dedicated to all those members of the armed services who had paid the supreme sacrifice during World War I. It has now become a memorial to all those who have served in the defence of their country during all wars in which Australia has participated.

On arrival at the **Big4 MacDonnell Ranges Holiday Park**, we set-up camp for the next two nights. If time permits, enjoy some free time at camp or maybe take a swim before dinner.

After dark we travel to the **Alice Springs Desert Park**, where you will receive your own specialised head torch before starting the **Nocturnal Tour**. Your guide will lead you to the Mulga Walk, a large predator-proof enclosure located in the foothills of the MacDonnell Ranges. Join your guide in small groups as you walk through a rich desert habitat full of life. Stopping to spotlight endangered animals of Central Australia showcasing their natural behaviours. Get up close to animals including bilby, echidna and mala.

Overnight:- Big4 MacDonnell Ranges Holiday Park, Alice Springs—Camping

DAY 5:-

B/L/D

An early start this morning as we try and fit in as much of Central Australia's outback beauty in, as we can.

It's a short drive on the Larapinta Trail to **Simpsons Gap**, a stunning gorge carved out of the West MacDonnell Ranges by Roe Creek. The Gap is a sacred site to Central Arrente Aboriginal people, and is called Rrengetyirpe (Rrung-GAH-chip-uh – trill the double 'r' as in Spanish) the local language. It's a place that's associated with Perentie (goanna), Eagle and Rock Wallaby Dreamings. The Gap is also home to various plants and wildlife, including the black-footed rock-wallaby.

We board our coach and once again travel the Larapinta Trail, this time to the beautiful **Standley Chasm**.



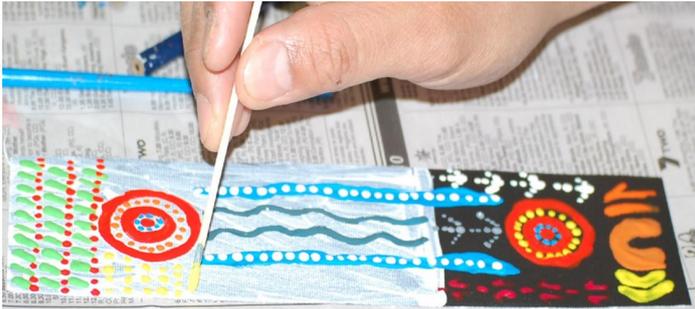
DAY 5:-continued

B/L/D

Standley Chasm Angkerle Atwatye is regarded as a "must see" spectacular geological and significant cultural icon of Central Australia.

Surrounded by the West MacDonnell Ranges National Park, it's located in a private flora and fauna reserve owned by the Iwupataka Land Trust.

Angkerle Atwatye "the Gap of Water" is a striking geological formation that has significant botanical, bird-watching & wildlife photography appeal. It is an important cultural site for Western Arrernte women.



This afternoon, we visit the Aboriginal Community of **Wallace Rockhole** for a cultural immersive experience.

The Wallace Rockhole **Rockart Tour** is said to be one of the best offered in the Northern Territory. See ancient Aboriginal rockart and hand stencils. Hear about bush medicine and bush tucker, along with the history of the **Aranda people**.

The Wallace Rockhole Aboriginal **Dot Painting Experience** helps people to have a better understanding of the Aboriginal Art and Culture that dates back thousands of years.

After a big day, we return to camp for dinner and some free time.

Overnight:- Big4 MacDonnell Ranges Holiday Park, Alice Springs—Camping

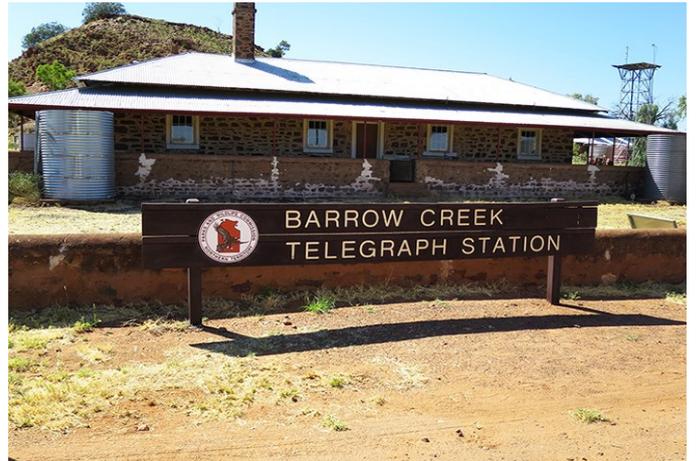
DAY 6:-

B/L/D

Another early start today as we continue our journey along the Stuart Highway towards the Devils Marbles. En route to Devil's Marbles Conservation Reserve we will pass by the famous **Telegraph Station House**, Barrow Creek.

The beautifully restored Barrow Creek Telegraph Station is located in Barrow Creek, set against the backdrop of the picturesque Forster Ranges.

This historical reserve is one of 15 telegraph stations that formed the network from Port Augusta to Port Darwin and has considerable historical value. The stone buildings were originally constructed in 1872.





DAY 6:-continued

B/L/D

Leaving Barrow Creek we will continue north, crossing the Tropic of Capricorn, we explore the **Devil's Marbles Conservation Reserve**; known as a Dreaming Place of the Warumungu, who believe that the Rainbow Serpent laid them. These gigantic granite boulders, of which some lay on top of another, are scattered on both sides of the Stuart Highway. Ninety kilometres north of the Devils Marbles lies the gold and copper mining township of Tennant Creek, where we will set up camp for the

**Overnight:- Outback Caravan Park, Tennant Creek
—Camping**



DAY 7:-

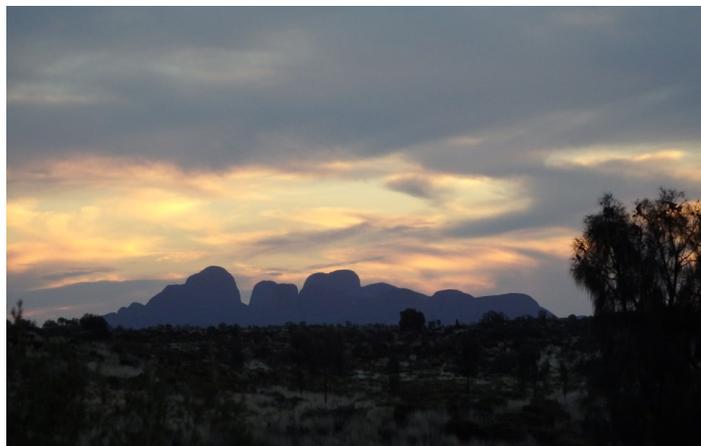
B/L/D

Day 7 see's us leave Tennant Creek for **Mataranka**.

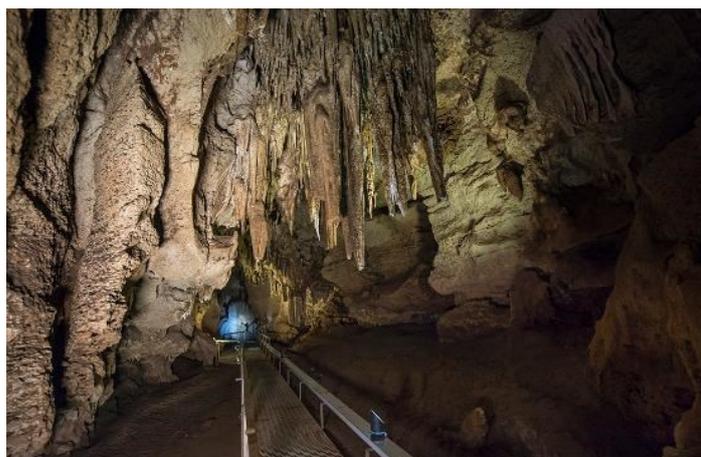
On the way we drop into the **Daly Waters Historic Pub**. Not just your ordinary drinking hole, since the early 1980's, the walls have been lined with all sorts of treasures from people that just want to leave a part of themselves here.

Opened in 1930, Daly Waters Pub, is still a working hotel, offering food and drinks to weary travellers and the not so weary.

In the past, the pub has witnessed murders, shoot outs in the main street, cattle stampeding through town and the odd drunken brawl. Station owners threatened to burn the place down or buy it and bulldoze it to stop the local ringers from riding into town, hence the old bath tub & rail to hitch your horse onto.



Whilst here, we'll also drop in to the **Daly Waters Airfield**. Daly Waters was Australia's first international airfield. The airfield was a centre for the London to Sydney air race of 1926 and was a refuelling stop for early QANTAS flights to Singapore. During the 1930s, the growth of international air travel meant the airport became a busy hub, despite its isolation and rudimentary facilities. The airfield was served by QANTAS, Australian National Airways and Guinea Airways, as well as being an important connection point for MacRobertson Miller Airlines flights to Western Australia.



DAY 7:- continued

B/L/D

On arrival at camp, we set up our tents and have free time to do some washing in the park laundry (own coins required) or go for a swim in the **Mataranka Thermal Pools**. The Pools have seats, stairs and more of a pool feeling, where you can float and chat to your friends. The pools have been done in a natural way to preserve the area.



Overnight:- Mataranka Homestead - Camping

DAY 8:-

B/L/D

With only a short drive to **Nitmiluk—Katherine Gorge** today, there is no rush to pack up camp early in the morning.

Today we are going on a 1-hour guided tour of the **Cutta Cutta Caves** located in the Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park. Delve 15 metres below the surface to discover amazing limestone caves in the heart of Australia's Top End.

Formed millions of years ago the Cutta Cutta Caves system is home to a variety of native wildlife and is rich in Indigenous culture and modern European history.

On arrival at camp we set up our tents and have a bit of free time to relax before dinner is served.

Overnight:- Nitmiluk—Katherine Gorge Sector - Camping

DAY 9:-

B/L/D

Enjoy a spectacular early morning cruise along the beautiful **Katherine Gorge**, with its swirled patterns engraved into the gorge's hard stone floor and 75m high sandstone rock walls. On the two-hour cruise, we will enter the first two of the thirteen gorge systems, with our guide providing information on the extensive plant and wildlife.

DAY 9:-continued

B/L/D

Journey back through the bustling little town of **Katherine** and through the historic gold mining town of **Pine Creek**.

Travel up the Kakadu Highway into Australia's biggest national park measuring almost 20,000 square miles, '**Kakadu National Park**'. Along the way, we pass giant ant-hills.

Set up camp before going to Ubirr (Obiri Rock) to watch the sunset.

Ubirr (Obiri Rock), a spectacular rock-art site, including the stick-like Mimi figures, some estimated to be up to 20,000 years old.

Enjoy a breathtaking sunset viewing before returning to camp for dinner.

Overnight:- Kakadu Lodge, Jabiru - Camping

DAY 10:-

B/L/D

We are up early this morning to enjoy a **Buffet Breakfast** (supplied by cruise company), before going on a cruise on the **Yellow Waters Billabong** where we will have the opportunity to inspect the varied plant and birdlife of the area, perhaps even see a crocodile!



Next we are off to visit the **Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre**, which features large displays providing an excellent insight into the culture of the park's traditional owners.

Let them share their story with you, through an interactive and educational experience that brings to life tens of thousands of years of human life in Kakadu.

This afternoon we are off to the **Nourlangi** (Burrungkuy) area—here you'll find some of the world's oldest and most impressive rock art, and spectacular views of the Arnhem Land escarpment.

Nourlangie (Burrungkuy) is one reason why Kakadu is World Heritage-listed for outstanding cultural values. This famous site, with its stunning rock paintings, documents life in the region from 20,000 years ago to the first contact with European explorers.

DAY 10:- continued **B/L/D**

We return to camp for dinner and our last night in Kakadu.

Overnight:- Kakadu Lodge, Jabiru - Camping

DAY 11:- **B/L/D**

A slower start to our day, as we pack up camp for the 2nd last time on this tour. We leave the stunning **Kakadu** and travel a short distance to **Darwin**.

On arrival in Darwin, we visit the **Crocodylus Park**. Crocodylus Park, the brainchild of world-renowned crocodile biologist Professor Grahame Webb, was officially opened on 29 August 1994. It includes a unique, comprehensive crocodile museum through which the results of over three decades of crocodile research are extended to the public. There is no other museum like it!

Outside, there are Saltwater and Freshwater Crocodiles of all ages and sizes, and American alligators. Crocodiles range from 30 cm hatchlings to giant 4-5 m long specimens, caught in the wild and relocated to sophisticated, utilised breeding pens, which are used for research, production and tourism.

Afterwards, we go and set up camp before boarding our coach again for a walk along **Mindil Beach**. We don't recommend swimming, as **Saltwater Crocodiles** call the Darwin beaches their own.

We return to camp for dinner.

After another wonderful day in paradise, we spend our last night of this tour, on a **supper/disco cruise** in Darwin Harbour. Experience the photographer's dream with the incredible Darwin Harbor sunset.

Overnight:- Lee Point Caravan Park - Camping

DAY 12- **B**

Sadly, we pack up camp for the last time. Your Coach Captain will drop you at the Airport for your journey home. Depending on flight times, you may have some free time in Darwin to buy a few souvenirs.

On arrival in Melbourne, we will have a coach waiting to transport you back to school, to end your stunning **13 Day Rock to Top End Tour**.

LEGEND:-

B	Breakfast
L	Lunch
D	Dinner



Add-on:-

- ◆ Extra Night in Uluru
 - Field of Lights, Uluru (Night Activity)
 - A Camel Ride
 - Dot Painting Workshop
- ◆ Extra Night in Alice Springs
 - RFDS Tourist Facility
 - Ormiston Gorge
 - Alice Springs Reptile Centre
 - Telegraph Station
- ◆ Extra Night in Darwin
 - Darwin Military Museum
 - Charles Darwin National Park
 - Litchfield National Park
 - Aquascene (hightide feeding of rays & fish)
 - RFDS Tourist Facility
 - Lake Alexander (hiking & swimming)

REQUEST A QUOTE OR MORE INFORMATION:-



www.ctoa.com.au

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ORGAN'S COACHES

