

13 DAY TOUR

ROCK TO REEF ADVENTURE

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

From start to finish, this tour is just sensational. Starting at Uluru, you get to experience all that our stunning Red Centre has to offer. Leaving the red dust behind, we make our way across country to Australia's east coast. From our beautiful outback to mine tours and snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, your days will be filled with fun, education and exploration.

DAY 1:-

D

A coach will arrive at school to transport you to 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 softdrinks and nibbles as we watch the famous **sunset at Ayers Rock**. As the sun sets, watch the rock change colours. We return to camp for dinner.



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 **Anagu 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 for) 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 Olgas is a group of large, domed rock formations or bornhardts. After watching the **sunset at the Olgas** (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 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

You know you are in the Australian outback, when nothing is close by and you have to leave Camp at 6.30am but it's worth it - **Ormiston Gorge** is a breathtakingly beautiful gorge with sheer red walls. Our walk for the morning is the Ormiston Pound.

Explore the area via the Ormiston Pound Walk - a three to four hour circuit that leaves from the visitor centre to cross the rocky slopes and the flat floor of the pound and back along the gorge via the main waterhole.

DAY 6:-continued

B/L/D

The area contains an interesting variety of native fauna and flora including a number of relict plant species from Central Australia's tropical past. The park is also an important fauna refuge, with the rediscovery of the Long-tailed Dunnart and the Central Rock Rat here in

Returning to Alice Springs mid afternoon, we visit the **Royal Flying Doctors Service Tourist Facility** where we are booked in for a Tour of their facility.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service Museum, located in the original Radio Station House, will satisfy the most curious of minds. You can discover what it's like to be inside one of their aircraft and look inside a replica fuselage of a Pilatus PC12. Have a look at the wide variety of historic radios including a Traegar Pedal Radio and learn what it was like to communicate before telephones were invented. There is a large display of historic medical equipment that would have been used on the RFDS flights of the past. A range of model airplanes used by RFDS will take you through the different aircraft used through the decades.

Following dinner, we are joined at Camp by a member of staff from the **Alice Springs Reptile Centre**, allowing us to get up close and personal with some of Australia's native reptiles.

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





DAY 7:-

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.

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.



We continue our travels for our overnight stay at Barkly Homestead Caravan Park. Set-up camp, as your Tour Cook prepares dinner.

Overnight:- Barkly Homestead Caravan Park

DAY 8:-

B/L/D

This morning we make our way through the Barkly Tableland past Avon Downs Police Station and cross the border into Queensland. We continue on to **Mt. Isa**, a major copper and zinc mining area.

Upon arrival we will visit the **Outback at Isa Visitors Centre**, where we will part take in the **'Hardtimes' Mine Underground Mine Tour**.

DAY 8:-continued

B/L/D



Descending into the mine in the Alimak Cage, you begin to explore the history of mining as the guides enthral you with their stories of the good times and the hard times that they had working deep under the earth. See how the tunnels are formed and shaped by the majestic boom drills and mucking units. Get up close with the machinery and try your hand at the air-leg drill, and feel the earth rumble with the firing of the blast face. These magnificent experiences will stay with you forever.

We set up camp before enjoying another dinner prepared by our Tour Cook.

**Overnight:- Discovery Park Caravan Park, Argylla
- Camping**

DAY 9:-

B/L/D

Today is all about travel, so sit back and relax, as you pass by more of Australia's beautiful scenery.

**Overnight:- Big4 Aussie Outback Oasis Holiday Park
- Camping**

DAY 10:-

B/L/D

Boarding our coach once again, we travel to **Townsville**. We set up camp before going to the **Strand Waterpark**.

A great chance for everyone to unwind, cool off and have a bit of fun, after some big days of travel.



**Overnight:- Bluewater Caravan Park, Bluewater
- Camping**

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

This morning after we pack up camp, we visit the **Castle Hill Lookout**.

Featuring incredible views the lookout itself offers spectacular vista over Townsville and out to the ocean.

The lookout itself is great but getting there is the fun part. From Castle hill there are a multitude of trails and tracks that lead up through the quiet, tranquil bushland of the hillside. These range from mild to challenging and are well marked.

Time for lunch before we board our Coach and travel to tropical **Cairns**, where we setup camp for the next two nights.

Overnight:- First City Caravilla, Earlville—Camping

DAY 12:-**B/L/D**

Today we are all in for an experience that most people will never have in their life time, you get to go out on the **Great Barrier Reef**.

What a wonderful day you have ahead, spending 5 hours on the largest living thing on this earth, the **Great Barrier Reef**. Travelling with **Reef Magic Cruises** out to the reef, you will have hours filled with snorkelling, a Marine Biologist presentation, a glass bottom boat, a semi-submersible reef viewer, an underwater observatory and so much more..... (includes Morning Tea, Buffet Lunch & Afternoon Tea).

Reef Magic Cruises has exclusive access to a stunning coral reef location selected for it's superior water clarity, coral quality and overall diversity of marine life, making



We return to camp for dinner and our last night together on this tour.

Overnight:- First City Caravilla, Earlville—Camping

DAY 13:-**B**

Sadly we pack up camp for the last time and prepare for our journey home but not before we have one more adventure.

This morning we are off to the **Rainforestation Nature Park**. Set amidst the Kuranda Rainforest, this spectacular Nature Park offers so much more than we will get to experience today.

Your visit today includes:-

**Guided Wildlife Park Tour (30 minutes)**

Your experienced Wildlife Keepers, will take you on a series of elevated boardwalks that provide close-up uninterrupted views of various Australian animals and reptiles. Handfeed the free roaming kangaroos and wallabies in the landscaped gardens, observe the endangered cassowary, see wombats and lace monitors, and view local snakes and other reptiles. The star attraction of the Wildlife Park is "Jack the Ripper", a 5 metre saltwater crocodile weighing at 650kgs with a reputation of killing 12 of his girlfriends in times gone by. Jack is kept in his own enclosure with an elevated platform perfect for your safe and close-up viewing. On the other side of Jack is the Parks fresh water enclosure where a basket of juvenile crocodiles, turtles and lizards sun themselves and casually swim around.

Pamagirri Dance Show – Rainforest Amphitheatre (30 minutes)

This natural setting provides a beautiful backdrop for The Pamagirri Corroboree; a traditional dance performance depicting aspects of indigenous culture including animals, food gathering and hunting. The rainforest serves as the theatre walls whilst sounds of wildlife provide accompaniment to the haunting sounds of the didgeridoo and clapsticks. Be sure to watch closely – there's a surprise for the audience at the end!

Pamagirri Dreamtime Walk (30 minutes)

This half-hour guided tour along an all-weather walk-way modelled on the Rainbow Serpent gives further insight into aboriginal traditions and beliefs and how several ancient implements were used. Enter the Pamagirri Cultural Centre at Rainforestation and experience Tropical North Queensland through the eyes of the people who have been its custodians for tens of thousands of years. Try your hand at boomerang throwing and after a demonstration and a few lessons, you'll be ready to test your skills. The area is specially netted for your safety, as boomerangs do come back!

Army Duck Tours (45 minutes)

Experience the tropical rainforest from a totally unique perspective aboard an amphibious World War II Army Duck or DUKW (colloquially known as Duck). Rainforestation has twelve of these historical vehicles which hold up to 30 passengers and uses a 6 wheel drive, propeller and rudder. During this 45 minute rainforest tour, your knowledgeable Duck Captain will identify and explain fascinating plants and wildlife as you pass by before splashing into the lake for a cruise with more wildlife to be seen.



It's now time to board your coach again. Your Coach Captain will drop you at the Airport for your flight home.

On arrival in Melbourne, we will have a coach waiting to transport you back to school. After 13 days of memorable experiences, your **Reef to Rock Adventure** comes to an end.

LEGEND:-

B	Breakfast
L	Lunch
D	Dinner

Other Activities to Choose from or Add-on an Extra Night:-

- ◆ Field of Lights, Uluru (Night Activity)
- ◆ Extra Night in Cairns
 - Port Douglas Beach
 - Mossman Gorge
 - More time at the Rainforestation Nature Park
 - Daintree River Cruise (Crocodile Sightseeing Cruise)
 - The Daintree Forest

REQUEST A QUOTE OR MORE INFORMATION:-

www.ctoa.com.au

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including



ORGAN'S COACHES

