

Central Australia



Welcome to your next adventure with Inspiration Outdoors.
Here are a few details to help you get prepared...

Getting to and from your Trip

You will need to book a flight coming into Alice Springs on Day 1 and flying out of Alice Springs after the last day.

Pre/Post Trip Accommodation Recommendations

Please see our below recommendations for accommodation in Alice Springs for pre or after the tour:

- Aurora Alice Springs
- Chifley Alice Springs Resort
- The Diplomat Motel Alice Springs
- Alice Springs YHA

Camping

This is a part-camping tour with lots of comfort (As we like to say it's a camping tour for non campers!). Each person will have the use of their own semi permanent tent and a comfy camping bed. Even if you are travelling with a friend or a significant other you will have access to your own tent or you are more than welcome to share. You will need to bring a pillow and sleeping bag or you can hire a sleeping bag from us for \$35 (to cover dry cleaning at the end of the tour). There are flushing toilets and showers in all the camp grounds. Meals will be prepared in the camp kitchen.

Do you need to hire a sleeping bag? Make sure you let us know so we can have one ready for you.

Luggage

Due to health and safety requirements, please limit your luggage to one small-medium sized, soft sided bag per person - it has to be loaded and unloaded many times. 12 kg should be sufficient. If you're travelling as a couple, please pack two smaller bags rather than one large one. Sleeping bag, pillow, day pack and walking poles can be additional to your main luggage bag.

Washing Facilities

There are no clothes washing facilities at Ormiston Gorge. Kings Canyon and Ayers Rock resort does have washing machines available for use.

Ormiston gorge has a natural water hole that you can swim in. Kings Canyon and Ayers Rock Resorts both have swimming pools.

Got Questions? Chat with us...



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Phone Coverage and Charging

As with all remote places phone service isn't reliable and often Telstra is the only carrier that works. Out on the trail service will be patchy and the guides will carry a satellite phone for emergencies.

Phone service is good in Alice Springs and the Aurora has WiFi. There is limited to no service at Ormiston Gorge and Kings canyon. Ayers Rock Resort however has phone service through Telstra, Optus and Vodafone and offers WiFi.

We can charge cameras and devices via USB chargers in the bus. As we can only charge 2 devices at a time please come with fully charged cameras and phones. We ask that if you can, to bring spare charged camera batteries. There is charging facilities at Kings Canyon and Ayers Rock Resorts.

Climate

Central Australia has a desert climate, hot summers and cold winters. In Spring, when we head off, the weather begins to warm up with average temperatures between 13.8 - 30.6°C. Nighttime temperatures can be quite cold but the days will be in the mid twenties.

Food

You will be surprised at just how good the food is! Breakfast comprises of cereal, fruit and toast. Lunch is cold meats and salad with sandwiches, rolls or wraps. Dinner is a 2 course meal. Morning tea is supplied and fresh fruit is always available.

If you have any special dietary requirements please let us know when you book, we are happy to adapt our tasty, nutritious meals to suit a variety of dietary needs.

All eating utensils are provided.

Drinks

Drinking water is always available. Guests may bring a small quantity of alcohol. If possible please purchase beer and wine in either cask or cans as opposed to glass. There will be an opportunity to purchase alcohol in Alice Springs before we head out into the bush. There is limited capacity for cooling drinks.

Transport

Transport is by an air-conditioned custom built four wheel drive (4WD) tour coach, designed for comfort in outback conditions. Vehicles are modern, comfortable and regularly serviced to ensure their safety and reliability. They are also fitted with long-range high frequency radios and recovery gear in case of emergency.

In the case of breakdown or other unforeseen circumstances affecting the vehicle or guide, the operator reserves the right to substitute vehicles and guides other than those specified, to ensure the operation of a tour.

Seat Allocation: Seats on tour vehicle are not pre allocated. To ensure all participants get to enjoy window seats we encourage a daily seat rotation system.

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Medical Restrictions

As we operate in remote areas, guests will need to bring all of their own personal medications on tour. Whilst our guides are qualified in remote area or wilderness first aid and carry satellite phones, we do not carry epi-pens, Ventolin or other emergency medications. If a person requires urgent medical attention whilst on tour, it may take several hours or more for emergency services to attend the scene and take you to a medical facility.

Under certain circumstances your tour consultant may request a medical certificate of fitness before you are cleared to participate on the tour.

If pre-existing medical issues that will affect your ability to complete the tour or have an impact on other guests experiences, are not disclosed prior to the departure, we reserve the right to remove you from the tour.

We do not have electricity at most of our campsites. If you require a CPAP machine, you can bring a battery operated machine. Please bring spare batteries and position your tent towards the edge of the group. Please let your guides know so that they can help you with tent site selection at each camp.

Dietary Requirements

From vegetarians to pescatarians to meat loving carnivores with an aversion to cucumbers we cater for all dietary requirements and will make sure you are well fed and looked after on tour. Your resourceful guides will ensure that fresh local produce and ingredients are used when available. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

Access to Shops

There will be limited access to shops once we hit the trail. If you could purchase what you need in Alice Springs (keeping in mind there is limited storage space on the bus) it would be appreciated.

What to Pack

- Day-pack - with a thick waist strap to help take some weight off your shoulders. In wet weather, a waterproof cover or a bin bag to wrap your belongings in can be handy
- Shorts/long pants and shirts for walking - as many sets as you wish! Quick-dry material is best, especially for trousers. Don't wear jeans walking.
- Socks - whichever thickness you're comfortable walking in (thick explorer socks can get quite hot)
- Boots/shoes for walking (make sure you wear them in well) with ankle support as many surfaces are rocky and uneven
- Windcheater or lightweight jumper for walking
- Sun protection - hat (secure fitting and/or with chin strap), sun cream, sun glasses
- Casual clothes for evenings
- Toiletries, hand sanitiser and personal medication
- Reliable headlamp with spare batteries
- Any preferred first aid supplies - such as your favourite blister treatment! (Your guide will carry a full first-aid kit)
- Water bottle/s or camelback - 3 litre capacity at least
- Insect Repellent
- Beanie and gloves (for the cool nights sitting around the camp kitchen)
- Sleeping bag, pillow and towel

*At this time of year (June/July) the days are typically quite clear and mild (average max 25°C) and the nights can be quite cold (average min 0°C)

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Optional items

- Lunch box (*with ice bricks to keep lunch cool)
- Fly net (especially for walks in warmer weather)
- Camera and charger/batteries (you can use your battery charger back at camp)
- Consider bringing thermals for the cooler nights- Gaiters (no sweaty plastic ones) for snake bite protection, are recommended unless you are wearing long pants and long socks. They're also good for keeping rocks and grass seeds out.
- Sock protectors (to keep rocks and grass seeds out of your boots)
- Robust sandals for relaxing around the campsite
- Bathers and a light towel
- Snacks and alcohol - there will be limited opportunities to restock during the week if you need to. Some people like to have some muesli bars, nuts, lollies etc
- Walking poles

Emergency Contact on Tour

In the case of an emergency and family and friends are trying to get in contact with you and unable to reach you on your personal phone, please ask them to call the office on 1300 544 882. After hours or on the weekend there is an option on the voicemail which will direct them through to the duty managers personal mobile.

On tour in an emergency situation our guides will be carrying satellite phones.

Final Payment Due Date

Final payment is required six weeks prior to departure or at time of booking if booking within six weeks.

Cancellation Policy

All our tours are guaranteed departures.

We hope that you do not need to cancel your booking. However, if you do, our cancellation fee, based on the notice given prior to the departure date, is:

- More than 12 weeks: \$50 administration fee
- 6 to 12 weeks: loss of deposit
- 4 to 6 weeks: 25% of full tour cost
- 2 to 4 weeks: 50% of full tour cost
- less than 2 weeks: 100% of full tour cost, no refund

We understand times are still uncertain as we ride the rollercoaster of state outbreaks. That's why we've introduced flexible cancellation terms so that if you're in a pickle, your adventure isn't. Please see our cancellation policy during covid restrictions here <https://www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au/covid-19/>

If you have any concerns about cancelling, please take out travel insurance covering this contingency. This policy will be adhered to despite the most compelling and compassionate circumstances.

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