

Hiking Australia's Northern Territory

THE HEART OF THE OUTBACK: KAKADU, LARAPINTA,
AND MYSTICAL ULURU WITH JAMES FUSS



Wilderness Travel

Overview



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 14 days
Arrive: Darwin, Australia
Depart: Yulara, Australia
Lodging: 11 nights hotels, 2 nights tented camp
Meals: All meals included except 1 lunch and 2 dinners
Activity: Hiking & Trekking, Cultural, Wildlife & Natural History, Limited Edition

Trip Level: 1 2 ③ 4 5 6

Moderate to strenuous hikes, 5-8 miles a day on uneven surfaces, some steep ascents and descents, rugged road travel, two nights tented camp

QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!
800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

HIGHLIGHTS

- Feel the surreal magic of the Australia's "Red Center" and its ancient outback culture
- Explore tropical Kakadu, with its Aboriginal art sites, cascading waterfalls, and crocodiles
- Hike the spectacular Larapinta Trail in the remote MacDonnell Ranges
- Watch sunset at Uluru, walk the Valley of the Winds at Kata Tjuta
- Camp below Mt. Sonder under the starry Southern Sky

Introduction



LIMITED EDITION ADVENTURES

This is a Limited Edition adventure—which means a unique trip we've never run before or offer only every few years. Led by our most experienced Trip Leaders, these journeys often take place in remote destinations with only the most basic infrastructure for tourism. If you see a Limited Edition trip scheduled for this year, now is the time to sign up, as spaces fill very early and the trip may not be back for a while! Planned daily activities and actual timings may vary due to local conditions or the discretion of your Trip Leader—it is important to bring your spirit of adventure for these special exploratory journeys!

TRIP DATES

June 9-22, 2024
June 14-27, 2025
July 6-19, 2025

It's impossible not to be moved by the surreal landscapes of Australia's "Red Center," one of the most spellbinding places on our planet. With our native Aussie Trip Leader James Fuss, we'll hike and explore the heart of the outback, from Kakadu National Park, famed for indigenous rock art, cascading waterfalls, and saltwater crocodiles, to the iconic sandstone monolith of Uluru and majestic domes of Kata Tjuta. Along the way, we'll hike the most scenic trails, meet indigenous elders, visit sacred sites, taste the best food and wines, and swim in pristine desert waterholes. Our hikes include sections of the famed Larapinta Trail and the classic rim hike at majestic Kings Canyon, and we'll savor two nights in a desert eco-camp under the starry Southern Sky.

Itinerary



Overnight: Vibe Hotel

This hotel right on Darwin's lively seafront promenade is within walking distance of cafes, pubs, and shopping, and it's just a few minutes' walk to the city center itself. The hotel has contemporary-style décor, an on-site café, and a long outdoor pool with a poolside bar.

Meals: D

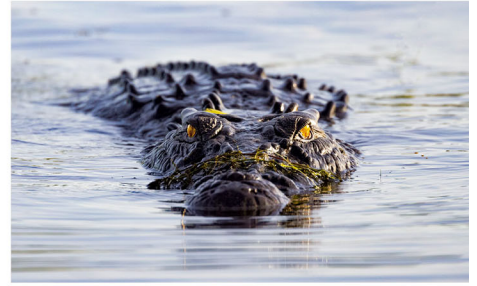
Driving Time: 30 minutes

DAY 1 DARWIN / NORTHERN TERRITORY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

The morning is free to explore Darwin on your own. We'll meet in the afternoon at the Vibe Hotel for a trip orientation, then head over to the Northern Territory Museum and Art Gallery, the region's premier cultural institution, with exhibits on everything from indigenous arts and culture to native flora and fauna, including the introduced activities of gold mining, pearling, and the events of WWII and Cyclone Tracy. We enjoy a Welcome Dinner tonight at Pee Wee's at the Point, meeting early enough to catch the sunset.

Note: Flights to Darwin typically land between 11:00 pm and 1:00 am, so you would need to arrive in Darwin prior to Day 1. We can book rooms for you at our group hotel (an "on your own" expense).

Itinerary



Overnight: Cooinda Lodge

Cooinda is a village-style property shaded by trees along Yellow Water Billabong. Guest rooms have air conditioning and interiors are furnished to reflect the Kakadu bushscape. The lodge offers an inviting shaded swimming pool, bistro-style dining, bars, a petrol station, and a shop offering locally made crafts as well as a wide range of essentials for touring. The Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre is just five minutes away.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 1 mile, 1.5 hours, 600' ascent / descent

Driving Details: 4-5 hours

DAY 2 KAKADU NATIONAL PARK / UBIRR ROCK ART

An early morning drive brings us to Kakadu National Park, an enormous, biodiverse nature reserve known for uncanny wildlife including wallabies, dingoes, bandicoots, and saltwater crocodiles. We'll stop along the way for a "Welcome to Country," a tradition in which the locals introduce us to their lands and culture. Later we stretch our legs on a walk to Ubirr, an ancient rock art site on a high plateau with views across Northern Kakadu and the floodplains. Our final destination is Cooinda Lodge, a village-style property under shade trees along the Yellow Water Billabong. We'll check in and perhaps enjoy a swim in the pool before dinner at the lodge's restaurant.

Itinerary



Overnight: Cooinda Lodge

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 2 miles, 1.5 hours, 100' ascent / descent

Driving Details: 2 hours, some along an unpaved road

DAY 3 KAKADU NATIONAL PARK / MAGUK GORGE

Today we explore one of Kakadu's unique attractions, the Maguk Gorge, where a pristine natural waterfall plunges into a dramatic gorge. We walk through monsoon rainforest along the trail, keeping an eye out for colorful birdlife including rainbow pittas and spangled drongos. Descending to the main pool at the bottom of the gorge, surrounded by a stone amphitheater, we'll have time to relax, with optional swims and a picnic lunch. Heading back to the lodge, we'll visit the Warradjan Cultural Centre, near our lodge. This stunning museum has interactive video and real-life artifacts that interpret personal stories from individual members of the surrounding tribes and collective histories that span thousands of years. There's also a gallery shop where you can pick up a variety of locally made arts and crafts.

Overnight: Cooinda Lodge

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 2.5 miles, 4 hours, 200' ascent / descent

Driving Details: 1.5 hours

DAY 4 KAKADU NATIONAL PARK / BURRUNGKUY / BILLABONGS / SUNSET CRUISE

Driving to the rock art site at Burrungkuy, we'll take a circular walk past an ancient Aboriginal shelter and several outstanding World Heritage rock images, including the impressive "Lightning Man." Our next stop is Anbangbang Billabong (a billabong is a branch of a river forming a pond). It's a good place for a walk to look for birdlife and water lilies. After a picnic lunch, we head back to the lodge for downtime, and perhaps a swim. Before dinner, we enjoy a relaxing sunset cruise along the Yellow Water wetlands. The Yellow Water region provides easy access to the escarpment and southern Kakadu. Sunset is the perfect time to appreciate this peaceful setting.

Itinerary



Overnight: Vibe Hotel

This hotel right on Darwin's lively seafront promenade is within walking distance of cafes, pubs, and shopping, and it's just a few minutes' walk to the city center itself.

The hotel has contemporary-style décor, an on-site café, and a long outdoor pool with a poolside bar.

Meals: B, L

Hiking Details: 1 mile, 1 hour, 150' ascent / descent

Driving Details: 6 hours, with stops along the way

DAY 5 KAKADU / LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK / DARWIN

We get an early morning start for the return drive to Darwin. Our first stop is Litchfield National Park, with its unique Magnetic Termite Mounds, some up to 100 years old. Termites have constructed these unique, six-foot-high mounds with the thin edges pointing north-south and broad backs facing east-west, thus regulating the temperatures inside. We'll stop at Florence Falls for a picnic lunch and time to swim. Dinner is on your own tonight in Darwin. The Trip Leader is happy to make suggestions, depending on how fancy or local you want to go.

Itinerary



Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Alice Springs

Located between the Todd River and Alice Springs Golf Club, with the MacDonnell Ranges as a backdrop, the DoubleTree by Hilton offers comfortable rooms, two on-site restaurants, two bars, a fitness center, tennis courts, and a heated outdoor pool.

Meals: B, L

Driving Time: 45 minutes

DAY 6 ALICE SPRINGS / TELEGRAPH STATION / ALICE SPRINGS DESERT PARK

A flight brings us to Alice Springs, “capital” of the Outback, famed for its soaring desert landscapes and colorful Outback characters. We drop our bags at our hotel then take a guided tour of Telegraph Station, the birthplace of the Alice Springs township. This is the place to learn about the early days when the Australian continent was only connected by telegraph, and we'll learn about the Stolen Generation, when indigenous children were taken from their families to be raised in institutions or fostered by non-indigenous families. After a “bush tucker” presentation and appetizers, we'll have a picnic lunch. Time permitting, we can head to Todd Mall to browse some art galleries before checking into our rooms. Dinner is on your own this evening, with two great options at the hotels, and a wide variety of restaurants a short stroll into town.

Itinerary



Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

Alice Springs

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 7.5 miles, 4 hours, 600'
ascent / descent

Driving Details: 3 hours

DAY 7 TREPHINA GORGE / ALICE SPRINGS

In the remote East MacDonnell Ranges, we'll hike amid the stunning scenery of the Trepina Gorge, with its red quartzite cliffs. We have two loop walks to choose from: either the Gorge Walk (1 hour) or the Panorama Walk (1.5 hours), both with uphill and downhill terrain but neither hike is difficult. Afterwards, we'll have lunch at a local restaurant then head to N'dhala Gorge for a walk among its striking petroglyphs, found in hundreds of engraved sites. Return to Alice Springs for dinner and overnight.

Itinerary



Overnight: Sonder Camp

An eco-camp in the dramatic West MacDonnell Ranges, Sonder Camp is set in Rocky Bar Gap, near the base of iconic Mount Sonder and towards the end of the Larapinta Trail. Guest tents are furnished with two cots and are large enough to stand up in. The camp has a composting toilet and two camp showers in separate tents. Fresh-made meals are served at the shaded communal dining area, set on a raised platform.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 6 miles, 3 hours, 500' ascent / descent

Driving Details: 2.5 hours

DAY 8 ALICE SPRINGS / LARAPINTA TRAIL / SIMPSONS GAP / STANDLEY CHASM

We depart Alice Springs and head out for a hike on the Larapinta Trail, a long-distance path that follows the rocky spine of the West MacDonnell Ranges from the Alice Springs Telegraph Station to Mount Sonder (4,527'), the fourth highest peak in the Northern Territory. At hike's end, we descend into the stunning chasm called Simpsons Gap and walk to a sacred waterhole—known for sightings of the elusive rock wallaby. After lunch, we'll drive to Standley Chasm, the land of the local western Arrernte people. Here we'll visit the Women's Dreaming site, a soaring chasm carved into the MacDonnell Ranges, then continue to the Ochre Pits, mined for generations by the local Aboriginal people. The ochre here has played an important part in Aboriginal culture and is used in everyday life for paintings and ceremonial body decoration. At day's end, we'll find ourselves at Sonder Camp, set below the big mountain it is named for. Here we enjoy the Outback setting in comfortable safari-style tents furnished with camp cots. The camp has two shower tents, a shaded communal dining facility, and fresh-made meals created in the camp's kitchen.

Itinerary



Overnight: Sonder Camp

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 6 miles, 4.5 hours, 850' ascent / descent

Driving Details: 1 hour

DAY 9 LARAPINTA TRAIL / ORMISTON POUND

From Ormiston Gorge, with its towering walls, we hike the Larapinta Trail to a fantastic overlook across the giant amphitheater known as Ormiston Pound, with Ormiston Creek winding its way through this mountain enclosure, flanked by the ridges of the West MacDonnell Ranges. Our walk crosses rocky slopes, descends to the floor, then circles back to the main waterhole (with some river-wading in places where the river laps across the trail). We'll finish with a walk up to the Ghost Gum viewing platform, then head to Glen Helen, a sublime gorge that cuts through the MacDonnell Ranges, for lunch and an optional swim in the gorge's waterhole. The waterhole is part of the Finke River (called the Larapinta by the Arrernte people), which is thought to be the oldest riverbed in the world.

Itinerary



DAY 10 SUNRISE HIKE / LARAPINTA TRAIL / KINGS CANYON

With a pre-dawn start from camp, we hike up to Rocky Bar Gap on a 4WD track, then join a section of the Larapinta Trail that brings us up to Hilltop Lookout. At this beautiful spot, we'll catch the ethereal dawn colors painting the valley and the flanks of Mount Sonder. We'll head back down to camp for brunch, then pack up and drive to Kings Canyon, one of the biggest canyons in Australia, nestled in Watarrka National Park. Along the way, we'll visit Gosses Bluff Crater, the impressive remnant of an impact crater.

Overnight: Kings Creek Station

At Kings Creek Station, the accommodations known as Drovers Dream are 10 "glamping" tents with all the creature comforts built in. They are beautifully appointed with a queen bed, reverse cycle air-conditioning, a walk-in en suite shower, and private deck. Surrounding the tents are vistas of the incredible rocky outcrops of the George Gill Rang, and the nightly Outback sunsets are magnificent.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 10 miles, 6 hours, 950' ascent / descent

Driving Details: 3.5 hours

Itinerary



Overnight: Kings Creek Station

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 5 miles, 4 hours, 900' ascent / descent

Driving Details: 1 hour and 15 minutes

DAY 11 KINGS CANYON RIM WALK

We'll have a late-morning visit to the Aboriginal Cultural Experience, an opportunity to learn about the Luritja and Pertame (Southern Arrernte) people, their bush medicine, and their traditional artifacts. After a picnic lunch at a shady spot on the Kings Creek Trail, we'll set out on the spellbinding Kings Canyon Rim Walk. This classic hike begins with a steep climb up about 500 stairs, but then we're up on the rim, continuing through Priscilla's Crack (made famous in the Australian movie *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*). We'll hike onward to the marvelous sandstone domes known as the Lost City, then down to the picturesque Garden of Eden, filled with lush greenery. The final section of the walk is along the south rim of Kings Canyon, with a view back across the canyon we have walked through. Post-hike, we'll enjoy sundowners at a nearby bar.

Itinerary



Overnight: Desert Gardens Hotel

The Desert Gardens Hotel in Ayers Rock Resort boasts the only hotel rooms with views of Uluru. Set in an oasis of native gardens, Ayers Rock Resort is an Aboriginal-owned enterprise on native land about 12 miles from Uluru. The 218 guest rooms provide a relaxing retreat from a day of adventure. Rooms are modern and clean, and the resort has two restaurants and a pool. A short stroll brings you to Yulara Township.

Meals: B, D

Hiking Details: 3 miles, 2 hours, minimal

Driving Details: 3.5 hours

DAY 12 ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK / ULURU BASE WALK

Today we explore spectacular Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, one of the greatest natural wonders of the world. It is home to the iconic sandstone monolith of Uluru (formerly known as Ayers Rock) and the 36 giant domes known as Kata Tjuta. Both sites are sacred to the local Anangu people, who have lived here for more than 30,000 years. On arrival at the park, lunch is on your own, with time to browse the park's shops and restaurants. In the afternoon, we'll make a half-circumnavigation walk around the perimeter of Uluru. Each part of this flat trail feels a bit different, with some areas green and lush and others open and vast. Along the way, we can visit tranquil waterholes, take a break under a magnificent sheoak tree, or peer into hidden caves. In the late afternoon, we'll gather for sunset viewing of Uluru at the public area of the park.

Itinerary



Overnight: Desert Gardens Hotel

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 6.5 miles, 4 hours, 1,500' ascent / descent

Driving Details: 2 hours

DAY 13 KATA TJUTA / VALLEY OF THE WINDS / WINTER SOLSTICE

We'll drive to Kata Tjuta to watch sunrise early this morning, with breakfast in the field, then set out for a hike in the Valley of the Winds. Our hike brings us to superb lookout points and we'll learn about the significance of this region for the Aboriginal culture. After a picnic lunch, we'll take an afternoon stroll through the Walpa Gorge, a natural creek between the two tallest Kata Tjuta domes. At sunset, we gather for our festive Farewell Dinner at Tali Wiru ("Beautiful Dune"), a fine-dining experience under the starry sky, with magnificent views of Uluru and the distant domes of Kata Tjuta.

Meals: B

Hiking Details: 4 miles, 2.5 hours, minimal

Driving Details: 1 hour

DAY 14 ULURU / DEPART

A sunrise walk to the Mutitjulu Waterhole starts the day, and there is an opportunity to hike the second half of the Uluru Base Trail (2 hours) early this morning. Late morning transfer to the airport for Sydney and Melbourne flights.

Pricing

TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, based on double occupancy
2024**

\$11,495 (14-16 members)

\$11,995 (11-13 members)

\$12,395 (7-10 members)

Single supplement: \$2145

Internal airfare: \$365 (subject to change)

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

PAYMENT TERMS

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$600 per person

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost *Please note that this differs from our standard policy.*

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in hotels and Larapinta camps
- All meals except 2 dinners and 1 lunch as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia

Suggested Airport: Darwin International Airport (DRW)

Suggested Date & Time: Before 12:30 pm on Day 1

Meeting Place: In the afternoon in the lobby of the Vibe Hotel in Darwin

Arrival Notes: Many flights, especially from Melbourne, arrive very late at night. We can book pre-trip nights at the group hotel.

DEPARTURE

Ayers Rock, Northern Territory, Australia

Suggested Airport: Ayers Rock Airport (AYQ)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 14, after 2:00 pm

Departure Notes: Flights to Sydney and Melbourne are typically around 2:15 pm. There will be a group transfer to the airport in time for these flights.

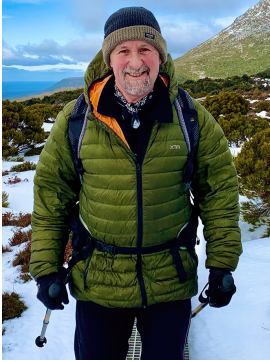
INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Australia. There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at www.exitotravel.com. Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary.

The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US. Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit wildernesstravel.com/leaders.



JAMES FUSS

James Fuss is a trekking guide, photographer, cyclist, and chef extraordinaire. Born and raised in South Australia, James found his wanderlust early on family camping trips across Australia. As a young chef in Europe, he undertook many explorations from the wilds of the British Isles and the Alps to the Himalayas, and later returned to Australia to become a guide in the legendary Outback. A WT leader since 1997, James is always up for an adventure. James is conversant in French, German, and Nepali, and when he's not guiding, he enjoys camping, boating, and fishing with family and friends.



ANNABEL HUNTER

"Bel" grew up in Toronto, Canada, but didn't discover the outdoors until she moved to New Zealand in 2015. Another move to Tasmania in 2017 opened up a whole new world of bushwalking, rock climbing, and mountain biking, and she's been making up for lost time ever since! Having studied Geographic Information Science and Geomorphology at the University of Auckland, Annabel has a particular love for geology and a big personal interest in how nature and Aboriginal Australian culture are so interwoven in the Northern Territory. She is a Kakadu National Park accredited guide, qualified in Wilderness First Aid, has attended multi-day workshops run by the Tasmanian Wilderness Guides Association, and has extensive personal bushwalking experience. She has been guiding trips in Australia and Tasmania since 2022 and cannot wait to share her love of the NT with you!

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a **Level 3+, Moderate to Strenuous**, according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 5-8 miles a day on uneven surfaces including up and down steep rock surfaces. Although you carry only a daypack, there are some steep ascents and descents and many sections that cross rough or rocky trails. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

Average Hiking Day

- 2-3 hours
- 3-5 miles
- 450 feet gain/loss

Challenge Days

- Day 10: 10 miles, 6 hours, and 950 feet gain/loss (this hiking day begins around 3:00 am)
- Day 13: 6.5 miles, 4 hours, and 1,500 feet gain/loss

TERRAIN

The terrain of the Larapinta, Kings Canyon, and Kata Tjuta is extremely rocky. Some trails are not “groomed” but follow the natural contours of the land and are therefore uneven. Some sections of trail are on uneven stairs built out of natural rocks, other sections are across smooth and solid rock, so it’s important to have good boot traction. Above-the-ankle boots and hiking poles are strongly recommended. There is one brief section of Valley of the Winds hike (Kata Tjuta) that is a particularly steep incline up a rock face. On Day 9’s hike through Ormiston Gorge, there is a required river crossing. The water is cold and waist-deep at the deepest section and we will have to carry our boots and daypacks over our heads as we cross the river. Bring a swimsuit or suitable under layers for this day. Teva-type sandals are good for this river crossing. The Ormiston Gorge hike is one of the very best along the Larapinta Trail, so wading the river is entirely worth it and it adds an element of adventure to the trail.

GETTING IN SHAPE

We strongly urge you to train for your trip, as your enjoyment will be highly dependent on your level of fitness. The best training for a hike is to hike, especially over hills or rough terrain. Next best are running, swimming, bicycling, or other cardiovascular exercise. Stair climbing machines are excellent preparation for hiking uphill. Your feet should also be well prepared—make sure your hiking boots are sturdy, comfortable, and thoroughly broken-in. For the most part, you can hike at your own speed because we always have a staff member hiking in the lead as well as one behind with the slowest hiker in our group.

What to Expect

WEATHER The Darwin/Kakadu/Litchfield portion of the trip will be hot and humid, ranging from high 80s/low 90s in the day to mid-60s/low 70s in the evenings. The Outback portion of the trip (Alice Springs and Yulara/Uluru) is an arid environment, and it will be winter. The evenings and mornings will likely dip below freezing, so it is important to bring multiple light layers to add/remove, especially for the nights of camping, stargazing, and pre-dawn hiking. Daytimes will typically be very mild in the mid-60s, but the sun will still be strong. Lightweight, long, sun-protective layers and wide-brimmed hats are encouraged.

ACCOMMODATIONS We stay in excellent hotels throughout the trip. However, there are two special overnights while we are on the Larapinta that are at an eco-camp in the outback: Sonder Camp. This camp will be reserved for our group alone and operates with sustainable technologies such as composting toilets, solar lighting, and a hybrid grey-water disposal system designed for the arid environment. The camp is semi-permanent, and taken down off-season to allow the land to recover. Sonder Camp's tents are large enough to stand up in. There are two cots per tent, each with a foam mattress, sleeping bag, sleeping bag liner, and a pillow. Nights are cold in camp, but the sleeping bags are very effective. The camp's bathrooms are shared, and have a composting toilet with sinks and soap nearby. There are two one-person shower tents at the camp. Hot water for the shower is heated using a "Donkey" hot water boiler, and guests have a bucket of warm water to use in the shower, enough water to run for about two minutes. At the communal dining area, set on a raised platform, restaurant-style gas burners provide heating at night, along with the open fire traditionally lit outdoors at the camps. There are eight USB 12V camera/phone battery charging ports in the communal couch area, powered through our solar system. There is no cell phone reception.

CUISINE Meals will be taken at the hotels and camps where we are staying or at restaurants in nearby towns. Australian cuisine includes a lot of grilled meats but there is also a huge Asian influence and well as a British influence. Breakfasts at hotels will generally be very familiar cuisine, and on the Larapinta trail will mostly be yogurts, granola, oatmeal, bagels, eggs, etc. Lunches on the trail are typically sandwiches with chutney, veggies, and sliced meat, as well as a variety of salads such as Asian noodle or quinoa/chicken/spinach.

TRANSPORTATION Our transport during the trip will be in a comfortable 20-passenger bus that is fitted for rugged dirt roads and has large windows for viewing scenery and wildlife. There will be water and snacks available in our vehicle when we are traveling, and on travel days, we'll make stops at points of interest along the way. Our support vehicle will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.).

What to Expect

HIKING DETAILS BY DAY				DRIVING DETAILS
DAY	MILES	HOURS	ELEV. GAIN/LOSS	HOURS
1				30 minutes
2	1 mile	1.5 hours	600' ascent / descent	
3	2.5 miles	4 hours	200' ascent / descent	1.5 hours
4	2 miles	1.5 hours	100' ascent / descent	
5	1 mile	1 hour	150' ascent / descent	
6				45 mins
7	7.5 miles	4 hours	600' ascent / descent	
8	6 miles	3 hours	500' ascent / descent	2.5 hours
9	6 miles	4.5 hours	850' ascent / descent	1 hour
10	10 miles	6 hours	950' ascent / descent	3.5 hours
11	5 miles	4 hours	900' ascent / descent	1 hour 15 mins
12	3 miles	2 hours	Minimal	3.5 hours
13	6.5 miles	4 hours	1,500' ascent / descent	2 hours
14	4 miles	2.5 hours	Minimal	1 hour

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Alice Springs	96/52	95/72	90/65	85/55	72/47	66/40	70/40	72/43	80/53	90/64	92/64	95/70
Kakadu / Darwin	91/75	91/75	91/75	93/73	87/66	87/64	91/66	91/66	96/69	96/69	98/73	95/75
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Alice Springs	22	14	11	1.5	4.2	3.9	2.4	0.9	1.4	17.1	20.4	25.4
Kakadu / Darwin	16	14	12	4	8	.07	.03	.03	.62	2.75	3.5	9.9

Additional Information

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at info@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us.

ABOUT NEW TRIPS

This is a new adventure and one that we are particularly excited about offering. However, as with all new departures, flexibility and a spirit of adventure are always appreciated! Activities are described in the itinerary but they can vary, sometimes considerably, depending on weather conditions, the group, and other factors.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
+ KLEEN KANTEEN 27OZ WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at wildtrav.com/resources/toucan-club.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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Wilderness Travel

1102 Ninth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710-1211
800-368-2794 • 510-558-2488 • fax: 510-558-2489
info@wildernesstravel.com • www.wildernesstravel.com