



Melbourne, Outback, and Uluru Adventure

This 12-day tour takes you from Melbourne to the Red Centre with experiences along the way – sample local wines, check out Victoria’s beaches, travel along the Great Ocean Road, take a guided night walk, sleep underground like the locals in Coober Pedy, and explore the Outback.



12 days/11 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Melbourne

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities during the day, so check into the hotel and explore the city. If you arrive early enough, head into the city to take in the ‘cultural capital of Australia’. Get lost in the city’s famous laneways, go on the hunt for the perfect flat white (hint: Melbourne loves its coffee shops), catch the tram to St. Kilda, or wander around the über-cool Fitzroy neighbourhood.

Welcome Meeting at 6:00pm (1 hour)

The adventure begins tonight. Please ensure sure you’re back to the hotel in time to meet the group. After introductions, your tour escort will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

Day 2: Melbourne – Mornington Peninsula

Tour Melbourne’s iconic laneways and learn more about coffee culture before travelling to the Mornington Peninsula. Stop to see Brighton’s brightly coloured bathing boxes, miniature beachfront cabins that are unique to the beaches in Port Phillip Bay. Although fairly small in size, the Mornington Peninsula packs a big punch with the amount of things to do here. Be awed with the stunning coastal scenery while driving through quaint towns and past stunning beaches. (B)

Melbourne Laneways Walk

Discover the small laneways packed with shops, cafés and restaurants that make Melbourne so unique. After a light breakfast and delicious coffee (which no trip to Melbourne would be complete without!), experience Melbourne’s laneways with an expert local host. Journey through this ‘secret city,’ seeing local hotspots and incredible street art while learning about the city’s history.

Private vehicle Mornington Peninsula

Settle in and scan the scenery from the comfort and convenience of a private vehicle.

Bathing Boxes Visit, Brighton

Stop to check out some of the famous bathing boxes that Port Phillip Bay is known for. These one-room “mini-cabins” are owned by families to store belongings on their favourite beach. Snap some photos of these brightly coloured boxes and breathe in the fresh ocean air.

Day 3: Mornington Peninsula

Enjoy a free day in the Mornington Peninsula. Go for a hike, visit a winery, or hit one of the many incredible beaches in the area.

(B)



Optional activities you can add on to your tour:

Wine Tour

Visit some local wineries to taste locally produced vino. The Mornington Peninsula is famed for its Pinot Noir, but the 50 plus wineries in the region produce over 200 different wines... bottoms up!

Day 4: Mornington Peninsula - Port Campbell

Hop on a ferry to Queenscliff before spending the day travelling along the Great Ocean Road. Pass world-famous surf beaches, enjoy views of the 12 Apostles, and walk through the rainforest in Great Otway National Park. Enjoy the stunning scenery while driving along the Great Ocean Road, stopping at the highlights along the way.

(B)

Private vehicle Mornington Peninsula-Sorrento

Settle in and scan the scenery from the comfort and convenience of a private vehicle.

Ferry Sorrento-Queenscliff

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Private vehicle Queenscliff-Port Campbell

Settle in and scan the scenery from the comfort and convenience of a private vehicle.

Rainforest Walk, Great Otway National Park (30 minutes, 1-2km)

Take in the beautiful greenery of the Great Otway National Park on a leisurely walk with your CEO. Stroll sandy beaches and hike along the rugged coastline, take photos from rock platforms, and head north to see forests, green gullies, pristine lakes and gushing waterfalls.

12 Apostles Visit, Port Campbell National Park (45 minutes-1 hour)

Stop at a scenic lookout point along the Great Ocean Road and capture the beautiful views over the ocean and the 12 Apostles. Now with only seven formations still standing, these iconic attractions were once limestone caves which eroded to become arches and eventually stacks up to 45m (147 ft) in height.

Loch Ard Gorge Visit, Port Campbell National Park (15-30 minutes)

Located along the Great Ocean Road, beautiful Loch Ard Gorge shows the process of erosion in action. See offshore stacks and blowholes, and watch short tailed shearwaters soar over the nearby island. This location is a perfect backdrop for a group photo. Get snapping!

Optional activities you can add on to your tour:

Helicopter Ride, The Twelve Apostles, AU\$145 per person

A series of limestone cliffs stretching into the ocean, the 12 Apostles is one of the most iconic sites in Victoria. Get a birds eye view of these massive rock columns and watch the swells of the ocean crash into them from above. Prepare to be awed by the sheer size of these cliffs and one of Australia's most famous coastlines.

Day 5: Port Campbell - Little Desert National Park

Travel inland to Grampians National Park, known for its sandstone mountain range and impressive rock art. Trek through the forest, lush with vegetation and wildlife. Walk to the stunning Balconies and visit MacKenzie Falls.

(B, D)

Private vehicle Port Campbell-Grampians National Park

Settle in and scan the scenery from the comfort and convenience of a private vehicle.

Tower Hill State Wildlife Reserve Visit (15-30 min.)

Visit Tower Hill State Wildlife Reserve west of Warrnambool for a chance to see animals endemic to Australia such as koalas, emus and kangaroos. Learn more about this large volcanic crater and wetland and the role it plays in Aboriginal history. Set off on one of the self-guided walking paths, then visit the Worn Gundidj Centre to see cultural displays and crafts.

The Balconies (Jaws of Death) Visit, Grampians National Park (1 hour, 2km)

Set off from the Reed Lookout overlooking Victoria Valley, and enjoy a short walk with beautiful scenery to the Balconies, formerly called the Jaws of Death. Check out the gorgeous view, but be careful not to lean too far over the edge!

MacKenzie Falls Visit, Grampians National Park (30 minutes-1 hour)



MacKenzie Falls is the only waterway in the region that flows year-round and it is also the most visited waterfall in the Grampians; take a short walk and check out the falls out from a viewing platform.

Private vehicle Grampians National Park-Halls Gap

Settle in and scan the scenery from the comfort and convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 6: Halls Gap - Adelaide

Visit the Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre before continuing on to Adelaide. Important highlights of the city will be pointed out while driving, before you have some free time to explore the city.

(B)

Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre Visit, Halls Gap (30 min)

Dive in to "Dreamtime" and experience the stories, food and art of Australia's Aborigines. Attempt to blow into a didgeridoo, paint and then throw a boomerang, or go on a guided walk through gardens planted with native herbs and plants. Head to the Bushfoods cafe and sample the local delicacies - kangaroo, emu and crocodile. Anyone still hungry?

Private Vehicle Halls Gap-Adelaide (6-6 1/2 hours, 500km)

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Orientation Drive around Adelaide

Drive around to spot some of the main highlights of the area.

Optional activities you can add on to your tour:

Grampians National Park Visit

Walk past lookouts, sandstone ridges and other various rock formations. Be rewarded with sweeping views of the natural landscape.

Day 7: Adelaide - Flinders Ranges

Stop for a wine tasting and light, gourmet lunch featuring local produce in the Clare Valley before driving through the Flinders Ranges.

(B, L, D)

Your Foodie Moment: Wine Tasting

Stop by a local winery and sample some of the different grape varietals while learning a bit more about wine production and its history in the Clare Valley. Try some Riesling, the local favourite (considered the best in Australia, if not the world), along with some Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz.

Private Vehicle Adelaide-Flinders Ranges (6 hours, 440km)

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 8: Flinders Ranges

Visit Wilpena Pound, a 800-million-year old natural amphitheatre, before enjoying free time for optional activities in the Flinders Ranges like hiking or a 4WD tour of the rugged area.

(B, D)

Wilpena Pound Visit

Visit the incredible Wilpena Pound amphitheatre, carved out of the Flinders Ranges over 800 million years ago. Explore the ancient landscapes and take in the impressive landscape in this part of the Flinders Ranges NP.

Optional activities you can add on to your tour:

Wilpena Pound Hike (1-3 hours, 2.7km)



Enjoy nature's 800 million-year-old natural amphitheater carved out of the mountains in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges NP. Visit Aboriginal art sites and learn more about the history and customs of the Adnyamathanha people who have lived here for tens of thousands of years. Keep an eye out for emus, kangaroos, and if you are lucky, the threatened yellow footed rock wallaby.

Mountain Biking

Get on two wheels to explore the rugged landscape of Ikara-Flinders Ranges NP.

Flinders Ranges Helicopter Ride, AU\$95-270 per person

Take to the air for a helicopter ride over the impressive Flinders Ranges. With a variety of flight options to choose from, opt to check out Rawnley Bluffs, Wilpena Pound, or the Chace Range.

Flinders Ranges 4WD Tour, AU\$105-295 per person

Strap in for a 4WD tour of the Flinders Ranges. Encounter spectacular scenery, Aussie wildlife, and learn about the regions rich geological history, all while getting a thrilling ride!

Day 9: Flinders Ranges- Coober Pedy

Travel to Coober Pedy, the unique opal mining town, the world's opal mining capital. After a guided tour of a mine, escape the heat like the locals by spending the night underground.

(B, L)

Private Vehicle Flinders Ranges-Coober Pedy (8 hours, 700km)

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Guided Mine Tour, Coober Pedy (1 hour)

Learn about opals and Coober Pedy's mining history on a tour of an old opal mine. See examples of both hand-dug and machine-dug underground homes, which are a popular way to escape the heat.

Day 10: Coober Pedy - Uluru

Travel further into the Outback, cross the border into the Northern Territory, where Australia's most iconic view awaits. Experience a colourful sunset at Uluru with a glass of bubbly in hand!

(B)

Private Vehicle Coober Pedy-Uluru (9 hours, 750km)

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Uluru at Sunset (30 minutes-1 hour)

Enjoy a glass of bubbly, and watch the setting sun transform Uluru into a glowing monolith bathed in deep reds and oranges. Capture the moment with your camera, but also take a moment just to soak in the serenity of the scene with your own eyes. Magic!

Day 11: Uluru

Enjoy the Mala Walk at Uluru to learn the importance of the rock to the Aborigines.

(B)

Uluru Mala Walk (1 1/2 hours, 2km)

Walk along the northwest side of Uluru with your CEO to learn about the history of the area, stories of the Anangu people and these awe-inspiring uplifted sandstone rock formations.

Aboriginal Cultural Centre Visit, Uluru

Learn about the Aboriginal Australian culture in the area to get a better perspective of the history, beliefs and presentday life of the Anangu people. Discover the wild world of bush tucker (indigenous food), find out which plants are used in bush medicine, and hear creation stories.

Optional activities you can add on to your tour:

Uluru & Kata Tjuta Helicopter Ride - AU\$245 per person

To fully appreciate the sheer size and splendor of Uluru, you need to experience it from above. Get a bird's eye view of the iconic red rock, and take in the vast expanses of desert surrounding the 'Heart of the Red Centre'. This is one ride you don't want to miss!

Outback Astronomy Tour - AU\$48 per person

Enjoy a tour of the night sky, learning how Aborigines used the stars for mythology and seasonal predictions while getting a chance to stargaze through telescopes and binoculars. The Outback is one of the best places to stargaze,



with low humidity and surrounding light – take a peek and see whats out there!

Sounds of Silence Dinner – AU\$195 per person

Enjoy a decadent three-course dinner while watching the sunset over Uluru. Try traditional bush tucker inspired food, including crocodile, kangaroo and barramundi, while listening to a didgeridoo performance as day turns to night. After dinner, learn more about the southern night sky during an astronomy tour with a local expert – prepared to be dazzled by the incredible clarity of the outback sky from this remote location.

Day 12: Uluru

Depart at any time today as the tour ends in Uluru.

Not ready to leave? We can arrange extra nights in Uluru; onward travel to Alice Springs, a fascinating town and home to the Flying Doctors base as well as a School of the Air distance-learning centre. From Alice you can travel north to Darwin, to the east coast or catch a flight home.

Details

2019 Departures:

September: 08

October: 20

November: 10, 24

December: 15

2019 Prices:

From CA\$4,099 – twin

Prices are shown in CA\$, per person based on two people sharing a twin room. If you're travelling solo you will be matched up with a traveller of the same gender in a shared room. If you prefer to have your own private room throughout your trip it may be possible to pay a single supplement. Please inquire for a single quote on the date of your choice.

Trip Code:

002506 - W17

INCLUDED

- All transportation between destinations and to/from included activities
- Services of a guide throughout the tour
- 11 nights of accommodation, 10 nights hotel and 1 night underground hotel
- 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- Tours as outlined in itinerary, excluding optional add-on touring options

NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to Melbourne, return from Uluru
- Optional tours
- Meals and drinks not specified
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature

TOUR NOTES

Available extras (Add these to your tour when you book):

Extra nights in Melbourne or Uluru pre or post tour. Ask us for details on accommodation options and pricing.

Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.

ROUTE MAP



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