



**WE DRIVE YOU  
SINCE 1992**

# Red Centre & Top End 18 day Tour



With Ezi Drive Coaches and  
Holiday Coach Tours.com.au



**18 Days / 17 Nights with Brian and Mary**  
**Tour Date Sunday 28 July - Wednesday 14 August 2024**

### Tour Inclusions:

- Pick up from your home, transport to Sydney Airport,
- Airfares to Adelaide and return airfares from Darwin to Sydney and return to your doorstep.
- (Sydney Metropolitan area only)
- Luxury Coach Travel, Seatbelts and Restroom
- All fully cooked breakfasts
- Three Course Dinners with Choices at the motel
- 17 nights quality accommodation,
- Lunches some days
- All entry fees and guides as per Itinerary
- Escorted tour

### Tour Highlights:

Mount Lofty Summit Café, Beerenberg Strawberry Farm, Port Pirie National Trust Museum, Woomera Heritage Centre, Coober Pedy, Yulara, Sunrise at Uluru (Ayers Rock), Kata-Tjuta (Olgas) National Park, Field of Light, Curtin Springs, Kings Canyon, Watarrka National Park, Bruce Munro Light Display, James Range Camels, Alice Springs, Old Telegraph Station, The School of the Air, Royal Flying Doctor Service Base, National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame, The Sanctuary, Quandong Homestead, Glen Helen Homestead Lodge, Ormiston Gorge, Devils Marbles, Tennant Creek, Katherine Outback Experience, Yellow Waters Sunset Cruise, Kakadu National Park, Adelaide River Queen Jumping Crocodile Cruise, Darwin Military Museum, Cyclone Tracy Gallery, Sunset Cruise on the Spirit of Darwin, Local Driving Tours and much more.

<b>Tour Fee including GST:</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>\$11,452.00 per person twin share</b>
<b>Price subject to</b>	<b>Non Members</b>	<b>\$11,502.00 per person twin share</b>
<b>Government taxes and</b>	<b>Single Supplement</b>	<b>\$ 2,350.00</b>
<b>Airline increases</b>		

**Book now Paid by Thursday 23 May 2024**

**For information and bookings phone: 02 4774 9700**

**Website: holidaycoachtours.com.au – Email: book@holidaycoachtours.com.au**

Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice

# EZI DRIVE COACHES

## 18 DAY RED CENTRE & TOP END TOUR

### DAY 1 (D): ARRIVE ADELAIDE: Sunday 28 July 2024

We pick you up this morning and go to Sydney Airport where we board our 11.35am Qantas flight with meal to Adelaide. On arrival in Adelaide at 1.10pm we collect our luggage where Brian will meet us and from here, we head to our city-based hotel to check in and have some free time to look around the local area before dinner at the motel.

*Hilton International Adelaide – 2 nights*

### DAY 2 (BLD): ADELAIDE & THE ADELAIDE HILLS: Monday 29 July 2024

Today we embark on a sightseeing tour of Adelaide. It really is a beautiful city – we'll see the green belt that surrounds the city, take a drive along North Terrace with its magnificent sandstone buildings – and the new medical precinct at the west end. Our local guide will join the coach and explain the layout of Adelaide with the five squares, as well as some of the history. From Adelaide we now make our way into the Adelaide Hills and head to the **Mount Lofty Summit Café** for morning tea and the chance to take in the stunning views of Adelaide and its coastline. From here we head to the lovely German style village of **Hahndorf** for lunch and a visit to the **Beerenberg Strawberry Farm**. You may not know but Beerenberg products can now be found in 24 countries, on major airlines and in more than 300 hotels! We now have some free time in the main street of Hahndorf to look through the craft shops before arriving back in Adelaide. *(Breakfast and dinner in hotel, lunch at Beerenberg Farm)*

### DAY 3 (BLD): ADELAIDE TO PORT AUGUSTA: Tuesday 30 July 2024

Leaving Adelaide, we commence our journey north and head to the **Clare Valley** wine region where we spend the morning at **Bungaree Station**. Established in 1841, Bungaree Station became the headquarters of an extensive sheep station with 100 thousand merino sheep by the 1880s. Today it is an efficient mixed farm run by the descendants of the original founder, G.C. Hawker. Consequently Bungaree Station is not a museum, but rather a living record of rural Australia since 1841. On arrival we have morning tea, then one of the owners will take us on a most interesting tour of the buildings with family insights into the farms history followed by lunch. This afternoon we arrive in Port Pirie and visit the **Port Pirie National Trust Museum** that is housed in the Port Pirie Railway Station. Our day

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concludes as we check in to our Port Augusta accommodation and unwind ready for dinner (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at Bungaree Station*)

*Standpipe Golf Motor Inn Port Augusta*

#### **DAY 4 (BLD): PORT AUGUSTA TO COOBER PEDY: Wednesday 31 July 2024**

After breakfast we head further north, arriving at **Woomera**, home to the testing site of long-range missiles and rockets. It remains the largest land-based range in the world and we have a chance to discover its interesting history at the **Woomera Heritage Centre**. Our lunch stop is in Glendambo and we spend the afternoon travelling through to the fascinating destination of **Coober Pedy**, known as the Opal Capital of the World. Once we arrive the unique style of the town is immediately apparent with its underground living. Summers are very hot here and underground housing is constructed cheaply by a tunnelling machine. We'll settle into our accommodation and freshen up for dinner (*Breakfast and Dinner in Hotel, lunch at Glendambo*)

*The Desert Cave Hotel, Coober Pedy*

#### **DAY 5 (BLD): COOBER PEDY TO YULARA: Thursday 01 August 2024**

We have a travel day today as we continue on the Stuart Highway through the vast and arid regions of northern South Australia. Crossing the border into the Northern Territory we'll stop for lunch at **Kulgera**. From here we drive through to Eridunda, at the junction of the Lasseter highway which will take us to Yulara. We'll pass Mount Conner on our left, the flat-topped mesa which is thought to be part of the vast rocky substrate beneath Uluru. We arrive in **Yulara** late afternoon and settle into our accommodation for the next 2 nights. (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch in Kulgera*)

*Desert Gardens Hotel, Yulara – 2 nights*

#### **DAY 6 (BD): ULURU/KATA-TJUTA NATIONAL PARKS: Friday 02 August 2024**

For the very early risers, the coach will depart for the **Sunrise Viewing Area** to experience the first glimpse of the day and some brilliant photo opportunities of Uluru. We then return to the resort for breakfast, then commence our days touring with a local guide joining us on the coach for a sightseeing drive around Ayers Rock and a visit to the **Mutijulu Waterhole**. We can also look through the Cultural Centre and have our picnic lunches here, before heading to the **Olgas**, called by the Aboriginal people, '**Kata Tjuta**' or place of many domes. Once at the **Valley of the Winds** lookout, we take some time to gaze out over the central valley of Kata Tjuta before returning to the Ayers Rock Resort. Tonight, we will be heading out for a special dinner and as darkness falls, the incredible **Field**

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**of Light** comes to life. Created by internationally renowned artist Bruce Monroe, the 50,000 spindles of light illuminate the desert floor as far as the eye can see. With magnificent views, our dinner will consist of delicious bush tucker inspired menu, fascinating star talk and self-guided walk through the Field of Light art installation. (*Breakfast in Hotel, picnic lunch, Special Field of Light Dinner*)

### **Day 7 (BLD): ULURU TO KINGS CANYON: Saturday 03 August 2024**

After several early mornings we can enjoy a slightly later start today and a relaxed breakfast. Leaving Yulara we now head to **Curtin Springs** and prior to our lunch we take a tour to see how paper is made. On our tour we learn how they harvest the local grasses and produce a diverse range of unique outback style papers. This afternoon we arrive at **Kings Canyon** in the Watarrka National Park. The spectacular scenery, a permanent waterhole surrounded by palms known as the Garden of Eden and the Lost City combine to make Kings Canyon a most remarkable place. Tonight prior to sunset we enjoy drinks and canapes, then the new light display created by international artist Bruce Munro. The installation consists of 69 two metre towers made up of 216 glass water bottles per tower. The solar fibre optic cables installed inside, change colour in response to music emanating from within them, taking us on a captivating and immersive auditory and visual journey. (*Breakfast in the hotel & dinner at Kings Canyon Resort, Lunch at Curtin Springs*)

*Kings Canyon Resort*

### **DAY 8 (BLD): KINGS CANYON TO ALICE SPRINGS: Sunday 04 August 2024**

We have some free time this morning before departing Kings Canyon. Our lunch stop today is at the **Erdunda Roadhouse** and this afternoon we visit **James Range Camels**, nestled at the base of the ranges about an hour south of Alice Springs. This was one of the first ever Camel Farms to be established in Central Australia during the early 1980's by the Camel legend Noel Fullerton. We have a talk on the history, as well as hear all about how Camels have been used in Outback Australia. This afternoon we cross the Finke River and enjoy the ever changing scenery as we near **Alice Springs**. Many people are surprised how far Alice Springs is from Uluru! Our base for the next 3 nights is the popular **Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel Casino**. Arriving into town we check-in, unpack and settle in. (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch in Erdunda*).

*Crowne Plaza, Alice Springs – 3 nights*

### **DAY 9 (BLD): ALICE SPRINGS: Monday 05 August 2024**

Our sightseeing begins today with a stop at **ANZAC Hill** for panoramic views of the town and the surrounding area. We then visit the **Old Telegraph Station** and the original Alice Springs. Following

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morning tea and a guided tour we head to the 'World's Largest Classroom'. The **School of the Air** will leave us enlightened and inspired. The film and guide presentations reveal stories about the school and its students, sharing a distinctive history, outback lifestyle and world-renowned innovations of this uniquely Australian school. Next is a look at the **Royal Flying Doctor Base**. The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is one of the largest and most comprehensive aeromedical organisations in the world. Using the latest in aviation, medical and communications technology, it delivers extensive primary health care and 24-hour emergency service to those who live, work and travel throughout Australia. We enjoy lunch followed by a comprehensive guided tour of the centre. Our last visit for the day is the **National Pioneer Women's Hall of fame**. A pioneer woman is considered any woman who is a pioneer in her chosen field; referring not only to the traditional meaning of the word - a colonist, explorer or settler in a new land but to anyone who is an innovator or developer of something new. This means that we should not only commemorate those women who were the early settlers in Australia, who battled through considerable hardships; but also those who have attained pioneering achievements such as the first women doctors, lawyers, aviators etc. Our dinner tonight is something a little different and very unique to the Outback, just 15 minutes out of Alice is **The Earth Sanctuary** – a World Nature Centre at **Quandong Homestead**. Tonight, we enjoy a mouth-watering bush BBQ with music and entertainment to experience the spirit of the outback through stories of the aboriginal dreamtime. We even learn how to cook a swagman's damper! (*Breakfast in motel, lunch at the RFDS, dinner at the Earth Sanctuary*)

#### **Day 10 (BLD): WESTERN MCDONNELL RANGES: Tuesday 06 August 2024**

We have a great day in store, as we explore the majestic **Western MacDonnell Ranges**. The natural beauty in this area is outstanding! Our first stop this morning is for morning tea at the **Hermannsburg Historic Precinct**, with time to look through the restored buildings and various artworks on display. Our touring then takes us past **Gosse Bluff** and then onto **Glen Helen Homestead Lodge** which overlooks the **Glen Helen Gorge**. This afternoon's scenery is breathtaking as we call into **Ormiston Gorge** and arrive back into Alice Springs to enjoy dinner and complete our sightseeing day of the Western MacDonnell's. (*Breakfast & dinner at hotel / lunch at Glen Helen Homestead*)

#### **DAY 11 (BLD): ALICE SPRINGS TO TENNANT CREEK: Wednesday 07 August 2024**

We farewell 'the Alice' and travel north along the Stuart Highway. We cross the Tropic of Capricorn, and travel past Central Mt Stuart and through **Barrow Creek** stopping for lunch at the **Devils Marbles Hotel**. This afternoon, we have a break at the **Devils Marbles**, an unusual rock formation next to the highway with an interesting aboriginal legend as the eggs of the sacred serpent. From the Devils Marbles we continue through to **Tennant Creek** for a visit to the Battery Hill Mining Centre. The museum will introduce us to the 'Freedom, Fortitude and Flies' exhibit, a look at social life on the goldfields. Checking in to our hotel we meet again over for dinner. (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at pub*)

*Bluestone Motor Inn, Tennant Creek (ph 08 8962 2617)*

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## **DAY 12 (BLD): TENNANT CREEK TO KATHERINE: Thursday 08 August 2024**

Today's journey takes us through Three Ways and Elliot with a stop at **Daly Waters** for **lunch**. The Daly Waters Pub is the oldest Pub in the Northern Territory and in the 1930s its international airfield, Australia's first, was where the fledgling Australian airline QANTAS stopped for re-fuelling. We then travel onto **Mataranka** where we can enjoy the fantastic mineral pools. Later this afternoon, we drive into Katherine (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at pub*)

*Knotts Crossing Resort, Katherine (ph 08 8972 2511)*

## **DAY 13 (BLD): KATHERINE: Friday 09 August 2024**

This morning we are in for a real treat as Golden Guitar winner and horseman extraordinaire, Tom Curtain, delights and entertains us with his **Katherine Outback Experience**. The show celebrates life in the outback through real horse-starting, working dog demonstrations, live music and humour bush tales. We have lunch back in town at the Katherine Country Club. No tour to the Top End, or Katherine would be complete without a cruise through **Katherine Gorge**. Discover the cultural significance of the two gorges to the traditional land owners the Jawoyn people. Along the way cultural guides will share their knowledge about plants, animals, dreamtime stories and culture. Surrounded by the limestone escarpment, the scenery is second to none. (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at Katherine Country Club*)

## **DAY 14 (BLD): KATHERINE TO KAKADU: Saturday 10 August 2024**

This morning we visit **Top Didj Cultural Experience and Art Gallery**, that showcases work from local artists, as well as, artifacts, a large range of didgeridoos, boomerangs, weaving, clap sticks and carvings. Local Top End artist, Manuel Pamkal will showcase his local culture and the significance of his painting style, as well as how he lived off the land and the weapons he used to do so. At Pine Creek we veer onto Kakadu Highway and travel through to our accommodation venue, **Cooinda Lodge** - located in **Kakadu National Park**. The park is the Top End's most important asset and is World Heritage Listed. Aborigines have inhabited the land for more than 50,000 years, leaving behind incredible galleries of rock art - more than 5000 sites of historical or cultural importance have been identified, though only a few are open to visitors. Add Kakadu's magnificent scenery and its unique flora and fauna and we have one of the world's greatest natural wonders. One of the highlights of Kakadu is the **Yellow Waters Sunset Cruise**. Don't forget to bring the camera because as we cruise on the Yellow Waters Billabong we'll see a large number of birds and hopefully some crocodiles

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resting on the muddy banks. After this sensational cruise, we return to the lodge for dinner. (*Breakfast in motel / lunch at Pine Creek and dinner in lodge*)

*Kakadu Lodge Cooinda (ph 08 8979 1500)*

## **DAY 15 (BLD): KAKADU TO DARWIN: Sunday 11 August 2024**

This morning we can have a relaxing start to the day, before visiting the **Bowali Visitor Centre** and stop at the **Mamukala Wetlands** before leaving the **Kakadu National Park**. We have an early lunch at the Stumpy Tail Coffee Stop before we board the fabulous **Adelaide River Queen Jumping Crocodile Cruise**. See powerful saltwater crocodiles as they propel themselves high out of the water to snatch their prey. With the help of experienced guides, we learn more about these magnificent creatures, and have the opportunity to watch crocs jump for food from the safety of our boat. From here we head to Darwin and check into our centrally located hotel. (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at Stumpy Tail Coffee Stop*).

*Travelodge Resort Darwin (PH: 08 8946 0111)*

## **DAY 16 (BLD): DARWIN: Monday 12 August 2024**

Today we take in the sights of Darwin with a **local guide** joining us on-board the coach. Many people aren't aware of the importance of Darwin during World War II, so we'll look at the city as it is today and also learn about the involvement and history of the bombings of Darwin. The present city centre was established in 1869 and contains many of its remaining historic buildings such as the Old Court House and Government House. We see the new Parliament House built on the site of the Darwin Post Office bombed during the war, the port area plus the many other fascinating sights of Australia's northern gateway. We take a drive to East Point and visit the **Darwin Military Museum**. It is a unique combination of Australian military heritage and modern tropical gardens. An interesting fact mentioned at the museum is that the Japanese aircraft that attacked Darwin on 19th February 1942 were deployed from the same aircraft carrier that deployed aircraft for the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and more bombs were dropped in the bombing of Darwin than on Pearl Harbor. For lunch we head to the **Museum & Art Gallery** of the **Northern Territory** and spend some time looking through the **Cyclone Tracy Gallery**. Our final visit this afternoon is to the **Fannie Bay Gaol**, which operated from 1883 to 1979 and was one of Australia's toughest. (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at Saltwater at Bundilla*)

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## **DAY 17 (BD): DARWIN: Tuesday 13 August 2024**

Following breakfast, we head to **Crococaurus Cove**. It has the largest display of Australian reptiles in the world, a two-storey fresh water aquarium, a turtle sanctuary, as well as local NT Aboriginal Art and Culture displays. We have some free time to purchase lunch and relax at the hotel before heading out again later. This afternoon we will be heading to the **Stokes Hill Wharf** with a visit to the **Royal Flying Doctor Service and Bombing of Darwin** tourist facility - two iconic stories in one iconic location! Whilst here we join the **Spirit of Darwin** for a sunset dinner cruise on Darwin Harbour. We will see the Darwin skyline from a totally different perspective while enjoying an interesting commentary and dinner. *(Breakfast in motel / lunch at own expense, sunset dinner cruise)*

## **DAY 18 (B): DARWIN TO SYDNEY: Wednesday 14 August 2024**

We check out of our hotel late-morning and head to suburban Winnellie for a visit to the **Darwin Aviation Museum**. Here there is an impressive collection of the Territory's aviation history. A massive B52 Bomber dwarfs other exhibits, including Mirage and Sabre jets, a Spitfire replica, Wessex and Huey Cobra helicopters. From here it's a short transfer to the Darwin airport for our direct Qantas flight back to Sydney at 1.10pm. We arrive back in Sydney at 5.50pm, completing our wonderful tour from **Adelaide to Darwin**. Here we are meet by our mimi bus taxis and say good bye at your door step.

*(Breakfast in hotel / lunch at own cost, Snack on plane).*

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