

AIR SAFARI TO OUTBACK AUSTRALIA & THE KIMBERLEY

23 MAY – 1 JUNE 2021

Join Graham & Debbie Reid, owners of Travel West, on this 10 day – 9 night journey from Brisbane to Broome, with motel accommodation in **Longreach, Alice Springs, Kununurra, Broome, Ayers Rock & Birdsville**. Veteran Super guide, Graham will entertain you all the way with his clear & interesting commentary. Hear some history, geography and stories about his road train driving days carting cattle in the Kimberley and the Territory.

Sunday 23 May (L,D)

7am – Meet Graham and Deb at the **General Aviation Terminal, Brisbane Airport** to check in for the incredible experiences ahead! Board your private aircraft and head west/north west, flying low over the 30kms long and 60 metres deep, sandstone cliffs of the **Carnarvon Gorge Range**. Upon arrival **Longreach**, you will be transferred to the **Stockman's Hall of Fame** to step back in time and see how the drovers of yesteryear worked their cattle and sheep. We will have a brief look around town before being dropped off at our accommodation.

Accommodation: Longreach Motor Inn x 1 night

4.30pm – Transfer to the Thomson River for your **Drover's Sunset Cruise**, followed by **Smithy's Outback Dinner & Show**. Relax under the stars with table-service dining featuring camp-oven themed modern cuisine. Their talented musical performer will entertain you with songs and stories before transferring back to your motel.

Monday 24 May (B,L,D)

Following breakfast, we will board our coach and transfer to the **Qantas Founders Museum**. Walk around Qantas's original hangar and see some of the old aircraft. The museum is filled with memorabilia from their old uniforms to round playing cards that Qantas released in 1970 to promote their new 747 service! Enjoy an early lunch here before reboarding our plane and flying to **Alice Springs**.

From the airport, we will head straight to the **National Road Transport Hall of Fame** which also incorporates the Old Ghan Railway Museum and the magnificent Kenworth Dealer Truck Museum. They collectively make up the most comprehensive land transport museum in the southern hemisphere and tells a story of how pioneers carved a road transport network from stark wilderness, to give us an industry that has been the nucleus and backbone of Australia's development. Enroute to your accommodation we will have a look around town.

Accommodation: Mercure Alice Springs Resort x 1 night

Dinner at "Barra on Todd", the hotels well known restaurant.

Tuesday 25 May (B,L,D)

Departing Alice Springs, we will head to **Kununurra** flying over the **Tanami Desert**. Graham will have some stories to share with you about trips carting cattle from Stuart Creek Station to Alice Springs down the Tanami Track. We will also be doing some scenic flying over the World Heritage Listed distinctive beehive formations of the **Bungle Bungles (Purnululu)**, the location of the **Argyle Diamond Mine** and over **Lake Argyle**, the largest man-made lake in the southern hemisphere. Landing in Kununurra, the eastern gateway to the Kimberley, we will be met and taken for lunch and then a brief town tour terminating at our hotel. You will then have some free time to wander in town.....maybe look in a couple of Diamond shops!

Accommodation: Kununurra Country Club x 2 nights

Dine this evening in the hotel's restaurant, Kelly's Bar & Grill.

Wednesday 26 May (B,L,D)

Today you are in for a unique day on the water cruising up and down the mighty **Ord River** with **Triple J Tours**. Across the Kimberley, 33 near pristine waterways and catchment areas have been identified. These areas represent some of the last remaining 'natural' ecosystems in Australia and are exceptionally beautiful. The Ord River is one of these and with its tributaries produces the second largest flow volume in Western Australia. 55km gliding over an iconic outback waterway, scanning the landscape for birds and wildlife, maybe a freshwater crocodile sunning itself on a rock – a real treat for avid photographers! Arrive at the base of the Ord Top Dam, gaze in awe at the man-made dam wall that has made this thriving ecosystem possible, before heading back downstream to a riverside camp for afternoon tea. The 50-seat boat is toilet equipped and water provided. Nearing Kununurra, you will appreciate the immense beauty of a Kimberley sunset.

Dinner this evening at the **Pumphouse Restaurant**.

Thursday 27 May (B,L,D)

Today will be another highlight of your air safari! Departing Kununurra, we will head to **Broome** via the "**Horizontal Falls**", once described by David Attenborough as "one of the greatest natural wonders of the world". Our day will continue flying low over the **Buccaneer Archipelago**, made up of more than 1000 tiny islands, towards **Cape Leveque** before turning south and following the colourful & stunning coastline down to the historic pearling port of Broome. Upon arrival we will be transferred to town for a tour followed by lunch and then some free time at the resort or return to town for some shopping!

Accommodation: Cable Beach Club Resort x 2 nights

Cable Beach is located 6km from 'downtown' Broome and this glorious 22.5km stretch of sandy beach and turquoise seas has won accolades as one of the world's greatest beaches and was so named after the telegraph cable laid between here and Indonesia in 1889.

Take a stroll and enjoy the sunset before dinner in the resorts Sunset Bar & Grill.

Friday 28 May (B,L,D)

10am – transfer to **Willie Creek Pearl Farm** for a tour that gives you an insight into the fascinating process of modern cultured pearl farming. Learn how pearl technicians see and harvest Willie Creek's oysters and discover exactly what makes the perfect pearl. You will cruise Willie Creek's azure waters and view live oysters suspended in their natural environment among the unique native flora and fauna. Enjoy lunch at the farm before heading back to the resort by mid-afternoon.

Dinner this evening at the resort.

Saturday 29 May (B,L,D)

This morning we will depart this stunning part of the Kimberley and fly over the **Great Sandy Desert** enroute to the greatest outback icon that is **Ayers Rock/Uluru**. Before we land our pilots will do some scenic flying over Uluru and the **Olgas/Kata Tjuta** – the spiritual heart of Australia!

On landing we will head 'downtown' at Ayers Rock Resort for lunch at Gecko's before checking into our hotel.

Accommodation: Desert Gardens Hotel, Ayers Rock Resort x 2 nights

Another highlight of your outback experience is seeing the global phenomenon of the **"Field of Lights"**. On top of a sand dune, enjoy a selection of outback canapes with Australian sparkling wine and beers as you hear about the art installation of more than 50,000 solar powered, slender stems crowned with frosted-glass spheres that bloom as darkness falls.

Returning to our hotel, we will have dinner.

Sunday 30 May (B,L,D)

This morning we will board our coach for a tour around Uluru with expert guides taking you on walks along the base, where you will see ancient cave paintings, peaceful watering holes and desert flora and fauna. Up close, you will discover just how impressive this sandstone monolith really is, standing at 860m above sea level.

The red landscapes of the Outback with the brilliant blue skies always make for a great photo!

After lunch, you will have some free time this afternoon.

Late this afternoon we will experience the **"Sounds of Silence"** – a must do unforgettable dining experience under the stars. Watching the sunset set over Uluru, enjoy some canapes and chilled sparkling wine and beer before heading to our tables for dinner followed by an introduction to Aboriginal culture and guided tour of the night sky by the resident Star Talker.

Monday 31 May (B,L,D)

After leaving Ayers Rock Resort we fly south over the **Oodnadatta Track** and then **Lake Eyre**, Australia's largest lake and where Graham has escorted more than 80 flights to see the lake in flood! Heading over part of the **Simpson Desert**, we will land in the tiny outback town of **Birdsville**, famous for its historic hotel and the annual horse races.

Lunch today will be at the Birdsville Bakery, where you might like to try a curried camel pie!

Late this afternoon, we will head west towards the Simpson Desert, traversing rugged terrain with spectacular views, at Little Red we turn and sneak up a 2 wheeled track past a massive Wedge Tailed Eagle's nest to the base of what you came to see...Big Red, said to be the biggest of the approximately 1200 dunes of the Simpson Desert...they are also the World's longest parallel dunes! Enjoy watching the sunset over the desert with a beer or glass of wine with some nibbles - amazing panoramic views and endless photographic opportunities.

Accommodation: Birdsville Hotel x 1 night

Dinner in the historic dining room of this unique outback pub!

Tuesday 1 June (B,L)

After breakfast, enjoy a stroll around town before heading to the airport to continue your journey back home via the town of **St. George**. From the airport we will be taken to **Riversands Winery**, on the banks of the Balonne River, the most westerly winery in Queensland. David will talk to you about the wines you will taste whilst you enjoy lunch in the gardens.

Now for the final leg of your tour, we will fly over the **Darling Downs** and **Toowoomba** before landing in Brisbane late this afternoon.

Cost

\$16,248.00 per person twin share (Single Supplement \$1800.00)

Includes:

Professional guiding and full commentary by Graham & Deb
Private airline charter for the most direct flights between destinations – high winged, pressurised & airconditioned, toilet equipped. Two seats either side of a central aisle.
9 Nights Motel Accommodation including portorage
All meals, entrances, excursions, transfers and airport taxes

Not Included:

Travel arrangements to/from Brisbane to join tour
Pre tour accommodation
Transfers to/from General Aviation Terminal, Brisbane Airport
Items of a personal nature including souvenirs
Drinks not mentioned in the itinerary as being included