

# AIR SAFARI TO OUTBACK QUEENSLAND,

# CENTRAL AUSTRALIA & THE KIMBERLEY

# <u>30 APRIL – 8 MAY 2022</u>

# TRAVEL BY PRIVATE JET - BUSINESS CLASS SEATING

Join Graham & Debbie Reid, owners of Travel West, on this 9 day – 8 night journey from Brisbane to Broome, staying in **Winton**, **Longreach**, **Alice Springs**, **Kununurra**, **Broome & Ayers Rock Resort**. Veteran super guide Graham, has dedicated many years to showcasing the outback to guests and he 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. The Fokker 70 VIP is a Business Class luxury jet providing guests with comfortable, spacious leather seating with your tour catering for a maximum 35 guests.

# Saturday 30 April (L,D)

**7am** – Meet Graham and Deb at the **Brisbane Domestic Airport** to check in for the incredible experiences ahead! Board your private aircraft and head west/north west to the outback town of **Winton**, Dinosaur Capital of Australia, home of Waltzing Matilda and Queensland's Boulder Opal; abundant in nature, culture and heritage.

"Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong..." You'll be forgiven for relentlessly whistling this famous tune while you're in Winton, as it's the very home of Banjo Patterson's 'Waltzing Matilda'. Reputedly inspired by an 1894 shearer's suicide at the nearby Combo Waterhole and first performed in Winton's North Gregory Hotel on 6th April 1895, you can learn all about Banjo and the adopted national anthem when you visit the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton.

Lunch at the North Gregory Hotel before we check into our hotel.

#### Accommodation: Boulder Opal Motel, Winton x 1 night

This afternoon we'll transfer out to the **Australian Age of Dinosaurs** for a tour. There are 3 sections of the museum – Lab, Collection Room and Dinosaur Canyon and we'll finish off the day with a sunset barbecue dinner. Winton is renowned for having some of the most amazing sunsets!

# Sunday 1 May (B,L,D)

Following breakfast, we'll board our coach and transfer to the **Waltzing Matilda Centre** – the first museum in the world dedicated to a song! Your visit includes entry to the interactive display, Qantilda Museum, exhibition space & art gallery.

Enjoy smoko in The Tuckerbox Café before we transfer to the airport and head to Longreach.

Upon arrival **Longreach**, you will be transferred to the **Stockman's Hall of Fame** for lunch and then to step back in time and see how the drovers of yesteryear worked their cattle and sheep.

#### 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 2 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 smoko before we head over to board our plane and fly 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 brief look around town.

#### Accommodation: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Alice Springs x 1 night

## Tuesday 3 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 now closed, **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, enjoy a great 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 your hotel.

#### Accommodation: The Kimberley Grande Resort x 1 night

# Wednesday 4 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 lunch and town tour before heading out to Cable Beach and our accommodation.

### Accommodation: Oaks Cable Beach 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.

An option for this afternoon or tomorrow afternoon is to do a Sunset Camel Tour – additional cost. Ask us if you'd be interested and we can arrange.

Dinner this evening in the resorts Cables Restaurant.

## Thursday 5 May (B,L,D)

**11am** – 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 Zanders Restaurant, overlooking Cable Beach.

## Friday 6 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: Sails in the Desert, 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.

## Saturday 7 May (B,L,D)

8am – Board your AAT Kings coach for Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) touring, followed by lunch at the Cultural Centre and then 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!

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.

# Sunday 8 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! Then onto the town of **St. George**, where 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.

## <u>Cost</u>

\$15,890.00 per person twin share

## Includes:

Professional guiding and full commentary by veteran guide Graham & Deb Private jet charter for the most direct flights between destinations – Fokker 70 VIP Jet, Business Class seating, 2 seats either side of a central aisle, pressurised & airconditioned, toilet equipped. 8 Nights Accommodation including porterage All meals, entrances, excursions, transfers and airport taxes

## Not Included:

Travel arrangements to/from Brisbane Airport to join air safari Pre tour accommodation Sunset Camel Tour, Broome Items of a personal nature including souvenirs Drinks not mentioned in the itinerary as being included Travel Insurance

> ~~~Booking Conditions Apply~~~ ~~Travel West caters for Non-Smokers Only~~