

# **EDUCATIONAL STUDIES TOUR #1**

## **2010 NORTHERN TERRITORY**

## **INDIGENOUS STUDIES TOUR**

### **Day 01: Sat. 19 June: To Uluru (Ayers Rock)**

**(D) T**

Check in at Melbourne Airport to join your flight to Ayers Rock Airport. Your Austour Tour Driver, Tour Manager and Catering Manager will meet you upon arrival. This afternoon travel into Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park. Visit the Cultural Centre and participate in a Ranger and Aboriginal community briefing on Uluru. If time permits, perhaps a drive around Uluru (Ayers Rock). View Uluru at sunset. Set up camp and enjoy your first safari meal!

### **Day 02: Sun. 20 June: Exploring Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park**

**(BLD) T**

Up early to view sunrise on Uluru from your campsite. Drive around the base of Uluru and walk into some of the many sacred sites then it's out to Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) – an unusual conglomerate mountain formation. Participate in a walk into Walpa Gorge and also Valley Of The Winds. Return to photograph Uluru at sunset. Overnight Ayers Rock Campground.

### **Day 03: Mon. 21 June: To Kings Canyon**

**(BLD) T**

Depart Ayers Rock Resort and travel to Kings Canyon. Stop enroute at Curtin Springs cattle station, a photo stop at Mt Conner and Lake Kalmurta plus a stop Kings Creek Station where the sale of camels is an important commercial enterprise - optional camels rides available here (own expense). Then it's on to Kings Canyon in beautiful Watarrka National Park. Afternoon 3-3.5 hour canyon rim walk. Set up camp at Kings Canon Resort campground and perhaps see the sun set on the George Gill Ranges. Tonight perhaps an evening talk by a National Park Ranger.

### **Day 04: Tue. 22 June: To Aboriginal Campout**

**(BLD) CO**

Depart your camp and travel via Mt Ebenezer, see dot painting, and Erdunda to Jim's Place – here you will have lunch and learn about 'The Singing Dingo'. Then it's time to go bush into the Simpson Desert for your cultural camp out. The off road journey to your campout site travels via the Hugh River Stock Route, or the "desert track" and the sand dunes on the fringes of the Simpson Desert - bush tracks, sand dunes and mulga country take you to the beautiful site for an overnight stay. Rendezvous with your Aboriginal colleagues who will conduct activities such as learning about bush tucker, bush medicine, throwing a boomerang and didgeridoo playing. Perhaps see a kangaroo being cooked in traditional style and enjoy singing, dancing and Dreamtime story telling. Enjoy an Aussie BBQ and an evening around the campfire. Students camp out tonight under the stars – no tents. Bush damper for supper.

**Day 05: Wed. 23 June: To Alice Springs****(BLD) T**

After breakfast farewell your Aboriginal colleagues and commence your journey to Alice Springs. Enroute visit an Aboriginal family that is carrying out experiments with the CSIRO in arid farming practices. You will see bush tomatoes growing on a trickle-feed bore water system. A little known and seldom visited property from which you can all learn so much. Macca, the custodian of this property, loves to share his knowledge and experiences including fossils from the period when the sea covered this land. Journey into Alice Springs with time for a quick shower and freshen up. Afternoon orientation town tour of Alice Springs including a visit to the multi million dollar Desert Park. Your Aboriginal guide will take you around the Park and share their stories. The Park showcases the natural and cultural environment of Australia in three stunning desert habitats - desert rivers, sand country and woodlands. Overnight: Heavitree Gap Outback Lodge, Alice Springs.

**Day 06: Thu. 24 June: To Devil's Marbles****(BLD) T**

Some last minute shopping time in Alice Springs before heading north along the Stuart Highway cross the Tropic of Capricorn – a great place for a group photo! Pass through the outback settlements of Aileron, Ti Tree, Barrow Creek and Wauchope. See the large road trains transporting the cattle to the markets. Overnight camp at the Devils Marbles that according to Aboriginal lore is the site where the Rainbow Serpent laid her eggs. They are a collection of rounded boulders that seem almost impossibly balanced. They have been eroded over 1,500 million years. Sunset and to camp in the shadows of these ancient boulders is something special.

**Day 07: Fri. 25 June: To Katherine****(BLD) T**

First stop today is at the gold mining town of Tennant Creek – an important and rich mining community. Stops may be made at some of the unique outback settlements of Renner Springs, Elliott and Daly Waters – the pub here is a must to photograph. Visit Mataranka Homestead where you can enjoy a swim in a thermal pool. It was here that the book and later the film 'We of the Never Never' was set – a story of life in the region in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Overnight camp is at historic Springvale Homestead, the original cattle station that became the foundation settlement for the town of Katherine.

**Day 08: Sat. 26 June: Katherine to Daly River****(BLD) T**

Spend time canoeing in hired canoes on the Katherine River through this beautiful gorge country. Travel to the spectacular Edith Falls where lunch and a swim can be enjoyed. Today journey east to the Daly River Mission – whilst here you will meet Miriam-Rose Baumann, recently retired principal of the St Francis Xavier School at Nuiya Nabiu on the Daly River. Miriam has been involved in bringing school groups to the Daly for some time and is interested in continuing her work. Miriam is a highly respected indigenous leader and has been recognised for her work with an Order of Australia. Your visit will present a picture of Aboriginal life in a remote community. Here you will complete a Community Service Project. Camp for the next three nights at nearby Banyan Farm.

**Day 09: Sun. 27 June: Daly River****(BLD) T**

Today the hosts at Banyan Farm will arrange a fishing trip – a beautiful location where you will experience local life on the Daly River. Time to relax and absorb the atmosphere.

**Day 10: Mon. 28 June: Daly River****(BLD) T**

Today Miriam and the community will introduce you to community life. You are likely to be split into two groups – Group 1 will be based at the mission and school – here the opportunity could be provided to participate or observe a dot painting workshop, learn about the mission and community life. Group 2 will spend time away from the settlement with an Aboriginal guide and community members learning about and collecting bush tucker as well as the blessing of the water. The groups will reverse their activities returning to camp for lunch. Later in the day maybe have a kick of the footy, a swim or participate in a community service project.

**Day 11: Tue. 29 June: To Kakadu National Park****(BLD) T**

This morning say farewell to your new found friends as you depart for Kakadu National Park. Re-join the Stuart Highway, lunch at Pine Creek, another important gold mining town. Late afternoon arrival at Cooinda Gagadju Lodge camp ground.

**Day 12: Wed. 30 June: Exploring Kakadu National Park****(BLD) H**

Up early for the natural wonders of Yellow Waters - a wildlife cruise on the billabong. Such a variety of birds, crocodiles, attractive vegetation, water-lillies and wildflowers - a photographers delight! Travel to the National Park Headquarters where you will meet the indigenous guide, Victor Cooper or one of his colleagues, a traditional owner of Kakadu and a guide with many years of experience as a Park Ranger, will act as your guide as you visit Nourlangie Rock Art site. Mid morning departure for Darwin. Brief orientation tour of Darwin. Overnight backpacker, multishare dormitory accommodation in down town Darwin for two nights.

**Day 13: Thu. 01 July: Darwin Exploration****(BL-) H**

Enjoy an orientation tour of Darwin city including a welcome to Darwin by your indigenous guide, Robbie Mills or one of his colleagues. His 'Welcome to Country' is a 2-hour walk around the Esplanade that will give an insight into the Larrakeyah people's traditional life and a modern day perspective. It was the Top End of Australia where many of Australia's traditional inhabitants first reached this continent over 40,000 years ago. An interesting night out at Mindil Sunset Market which is open from 5.00 to 10.00 pm and provides the opportunity to view the many art and craft stalls, sample the wide variety of Asian food whilst enjoying indigenous cultural performances, street theatre and music. Dinner at own expense.

**Day 14: Fri. 02 July: Farewell Darwin****(B) -**

Today is designed as a relaxing day – free time in Darwin for shopping, further sightseeing by own arrangement. Late afternoon meet at the hostel for transfer to Darwin Airport to join evening flight to Melbourne.

**KEY:****MEALS: B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner****ACCOMMODATION: H = Hostel; T = Tent; CO = Cultural Camp Out**