

EDUCATIONS STUDIES TOUR # 2

2010 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL STUDY PROGRAM

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA - NORTHERN TERRITORY

DAY 01: SAT. 01 MAY: FLY TO ALICE SPRINGS

(D) T

Welcome to Arrernte country, Alice Springs. Your group will be met on arrival from Tiger Airways. Transfer by coach to Heavitree Gap Outback Lodge for overnight camp.

DAY 02: SUN 02 MAY: TO IPOLERA

(BLD) T

Journey into the West MacDonnell Ranges, Albert Namatjira country, to the Hermannsburg Community and Mission, founded by the Lutheran Church in the 1870's. Join the local community for their church service at 10.30 am. Afterwards learn more about the Hermannsburg potters, see dot painting art and maybe meet a Hermannsburg Aboriginal identity, Gus Williams. Learn about early settlement, the current intervention program, the 'stolen generation' and the Lutheran Christian influence. Travel to Ipolera Aboriginal Community, where three generations of the Malbunka family are working together through a community school and indigenous program. You will be welcomed by representatives of the Malbunka Family and hear stories of the dreamtime. After a camp dinner you can sit around the campfire and enjoy a talk on the southern skies with an Aboriginal interpretation. Bush damper for supper.

DAY 03: MON 03 MAY: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CAMPOUT

(BLD) CO

This morning the Malbunka Family will show you some of their sacred sites, their community, bush tucker and school. We hope to assist the community with a small work project - more details later. After your farewells, depart Ipolera and travel to Angkerie (Standley Chasm) administered by the Jay Creek Community. This afternoon journey to the new camp out site on Hamilton Downs, 30 kms west on the Tanami Track - Walpirri country. We will rendezvous with our Aboriginal colleagues who will conduct activities such as guided bush tucker or medicine walks, boomerang throwing and didgeridoo playing. We will perhaps see a kangaroo being cooked in traditional style and enjoy singing, dancing and Dreamtime story telling around the campfire to conclude a wonderful time of learning and entertainment. Students' camp out tonight under the stars - no tents.

DAY 04: TUE 04 MAY: TO KINGS CANYON**(BLD) T**

Return to Alice Springs for a brief city sights tour and then journey along the Stuart Highway and Luritja Road to Kings Canyon Resort in beautiful Watarrka National Park. An interesting stop enroute at Jim's Place where you will hear the story of the "singing dingo". A stop also to photograph the beautiful, graceful desert oaks and a brief stop at Kings Creek Station and perhaps Lilla Community. This evening Micah Laughton from Kurrparra Tours will visit you in camp to talk about life growing up in an Aboriginal Community. Overnight at Kings Canyon Resort Campground.

DAY 05: WED 05 MAY: KINGS CANYON RIM WALK / TO ULURU**(BLD) T**

Climb and explore Kings Canyon - view the 'Amphitheatre', 'The Lost City', the picturesque 'Garden of Eden' and the breathtaking north and south walls. Then it's on to Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park, home of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas). Stop enroute to photograph unusual Mount Connor and the huge salt Lake Kalamurta, visit Curtin Springs Station. Establish camp at Ayers Rock Campground.

DAY 06: THU 06 MAY: EXPLORING ULURU KATA TJUTA NP**(BLD) T**

A full day exploring world heritage listed Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park. Up early to view sunrise on Uluru from your campsite. Then it's off to the National Park where you will visit the Cultural Centre and participate in a Ranger and Aboriginal Community briefing on Uluru. Drive around the base of Uluru and walk into some of the many sacred sites before travelling to Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) - an unusual conglomerate mountain formation. Participate in a walk into Walpa Gorge and return to view the sunset on Uluru. Overnight camp at Ayers Rock Campground.

DAY 07: FRI 07 MAY: TO ALICE SPRINGS**(BLD) T**

Morning journey to Alice Springs with a stop at Mount Ebenezer Community and spend time viewing their Aboriginal dot painting art gallery. Return to Alice Springs via (time permitting) a lunch stop at Camels Australia at Stuart Wells for optional camel rides. Afternoon visit to School of the Air. Set up camp and see the rock wallabies at sunset as they descend from the Heavitree Gap Ranges. Evening reptile show and talk with local identity Rex. Overnight camp at Heavitree Gap Outback Lodge.

DAY 08: SAT 08 MAY: ALICE SPRINGS & HOMEWARD BOUND**(BL) -**

Morning visit to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the multi million-dollar Alice Springs Desert Park where your Aboriginal guide will take you around 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. Picnic lunch at Simpson Gap before a short walk along the Larapinta Trail. Your tour concludes with a transfer to Alice Springs Airport to connect with your Tiger Airways flight TT 5933 departing at 6.35 pm arriving Melbourne Airport at 9.40 pm. What a wonderful experience it has been!

Key: B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner; T = Tent; CO = Cultural Camp Out