

# GREAT AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE



Itinerary:

2010/2011

Tour Code: GAA 30

**Introduction:** This tour has been operating regularly for many years and is truly a Great Australian Adventure icon. Camping out in twin share tents and/or standard budget cabins is great fun.

**The Great Australian Adventure**

**FROM ONLY \$175**  
Fully Inclusive Adult

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**30 DAYS TENT & CABIN ACCOMMODATION**

**LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK**

**Reservations 1800 335 009**

**Itinerary:**  
 Your Itinerary:  
 Day 1: Coffin Harbour  
 Day 2: Burrows Paradise  
 Day 3: Honey Bay  
 Day 4: Honey Bay  
 Day 5: Longman Cattle Station  
 Day 6: Airie Beach  
 Day 7: Airie Beach  
 Day 8: Cairns, Cairns  
 Day 9: Cairns, Cairns  
 Day 10: Cairns, Cairns  
 Day 11: Torres Creek  
 Day 12: Mt Isa  
 Day 13: Renner Springs  
 Day 14: Katherine - Springsdale HS  
 Day 15, 16 & 17: Darwin  
 Day 18: Cairns - Kakadu  
 Day 19: Katherine-Knappa King  
 Day 20: Yarralong  
 Day 21: Alice Springs  
 Day 22: Alice Springs  
 Day 23: Alice Springs  
 Day 24: Kings Canyon  
 Day 25: Ayres Rock Camp  
 Day 26: Ayres Rock Camp  
 Day 27: Conbar Photo  
 Day 28: Pom Aggesta  
 Day 29: Adelaide Model  
 Day 30: Tour concludes in Melbourne

**Departure Dates**  
 2008 - April 18, June 15, July 15, August 22, October 19, November 18  
 2009 - January 8, February 6, March 15, April 17, June 12, July 17, August 21, October 8, November 15  
 2011 - January 8, February 12, March 19 from similar dates

Meals are prepared by your safari camp cook. Commentary is by the tour driver/guide and is in English. Two language assistances support our French and German clients. The tour is English speaking and some understanding of the English language is necessary, however help is at hand with translations if needed.

If you are an adventurous 25 to 55 this tour is for you. Our Crew of 4 make is so easy and lots of fun.



**\*PRE DEPARTURE PACKAGE:**

**Day 00: Thu. MELBOURNE TOWARDS SYDNEY**

**(-) M**

Depart Melbourne at 1.00 pm and travel along the Hume Highway through Albury to the NSW town of Tarcutta. Overnight motel accommodation.

**Day 0: Fri. SYDNEY**

**(-) –**

Continue journey to Sydney arriving at approximately 2.00 pm. Free afternoon to see some of the sights of Sydney before your Friday evening 6.30 pm Briefing Meeting at Sullivan's Hotel, Paddington. One night complimentary twin share room only accommodation is provided in Sydney for clients joining the full 30 day tour Sydney to Melbourne. who attend Austour's pre-departure briefing meeting. Application in writing for this offer at time of booking.

**\*GREAT AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE ITINERARY COMMENCES 7.00 AM SATURDAY**



**Day 01: Sat. SYDNEY TO COFFS HARBOUR**

**(D) T**

Travel north along the Pacific Highway and see the Australian bush, country towns, expanding suburbia and banana plantations. Your overnight is near the Pacific Ocean and the resort town of Coffs Harbour – camping in tents for all. A great way to start your adventure.

**Day 02: Sun. BYRON BAY & GOLD COAST**

**(BLD) T**

The rural town of Grafton is the first stop then detour in to Byron Bay on the coast – Australia's most easterly point and an alternative lifestyle town. Cross the Queensland state - a second night in tents for all on the Gold Coast. This evening a great treat! A night out to the RM Williams Australian Outback Spectacular Show. A great way to get the feel for the "real Australia" and what this tour is all about!

**Day 03: Mon. BRISBANE & AUSTRALIA ZOO**

**(BLD) T/C**

Travel through Brisbane, the capital city of Queensland, see pineapple plantations and country towns. The highlight today is an afternoon visit to the famous Australia Zoo of Steve Irwin fame. The next two nights are at Hervey Bay.



**Day 04: Tue. WORLD HERITAGE FRASER ISLAND**

**(B\*,LD) T/C**

A full day 4WD tour to Fraser Island. See dingoes, a shipwreck, beautiful rainforest scenery and freshwater inland lakes – a world heritage sand island. Return ferry to the mainland for overnight.

**Day 05: Wed. CATTLE STATION STOPOVER**

**(BLD) T/C**

Leaving Hervey Bay join the Bruce Highway then detour into the town of Bundaberg. Morning visit to the famous Bundaberg Rum distillery. Another interesting detour to the town of 1770, now a fishing village, this was where Captain James Cook first landed on the coast of Queensland, a truly historic Australian sight. Your farm stay tonight is east of the small town of Raglan, on Highway 1, the Bruce Highway. Our host will take us for a tour of the property including the historic homestead. Six generations of the Creed family have farmed beef cattle since here 1869. Enjoy afternoon tea of home made scones. See kangaroos in the wild. A roast dinner and camp overnight.

**Day 06: Thu. WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS**

**(BLD) T/C**



The morning stop is at Rockhampton, the beef cattle capital of Queensland, located on the Tropic of Capricorn. Continue north to Airlie Beach, gateway to The Whitsundays, for the next 2 nights.

**Day 07: Fri. EXPLORING THE ISLANDS**

**(B\*) T/C**

A free day for optional visits to The Whitsunday Is. sailing, cruising, and more! The choice is yours (passenger expense).

**Day 08: Sat. TO BOWEN, TOWNSVILLE, INNISFAIL & CAIRNS**

**(BLD) T/C**

Travel north through the mango and sugar cane regions of Bowen and Townsville. See Tully and Innisfail, in Australia's wettest, tropical rainforest regions, on the way to Cairns - settle in to camp for the next three nights.

**Day 09: REEF CRUISE & TJAPUKAI BY NIGHT (B\*,LD) T/C**

Today visit one of the Wonders of the World – The Great Barrier Reef. A wonderful cruise – time for snorkelling, join a marine naturalist for a personalised guided tour of The Reef and coral viewing. In the evening see Australia's culture through Aboriginal eyes – a powerful and personal experience that will leave you with a deep and lasting memory. Dinner included.



**Note:** Reef, Kakadu & Rock clients join at 8.00 am today and meet the tour group in time for the cruise.



**Day 10: Mon. CAIRNS EXPLORATION**

**(B\*) T/C**

A free day for relaxing, shopping or optional activity (passenger's own expense). Suggestions: white water rafting; 4WD tour to the Daintree and Cape Tribulation, Skyrail to the Tablelands or maybe a relaxing day.

**Day11: Tue. OUTBACK QUEENSLAND**

**(BLD) T/C**

Charters Towers is the first major stop, an old gold mining town with its characteristic buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. On to Torrens Creek for our overnight stay – a quaint outback town where you can enjoy the hospitality at a typical small outback pub.

**Note:** East Coast Adventure clients conclude tour after breakfast today - transfers, sightseeing and meals by own arrangements.

**Day 12: Wed. AN ANCIENT LAND WHERE DINOSAURS ROAMED**

**(BLD) T/C**

Travel through the outback Queensland towns of Richmond, Julia Creek (site of a dinosaur museum) and the old copper mining town of Cloncurry, an important town in the history of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Qantas. Your destination tonight is Mount Isa, a large mining town.



**Day 13: Thur. TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**(BLD) T/C**

This morning pass through Camooweal, an important cattle droving centre in the early days. The Barkly Highway crosses some of the largest cattle properties in the world. Overnight at Renner Springs, a typical outback-roadside stopover.

**Day 14: Fri. DALY WATERS TO KATHERINE**

**(BLD) T/C**

The first stop today is at the small outback town of Daly Waters, which is noted for its unique outback pub! At Mataranka a thermal pool provides a relaxing respite. Continue on to Katherine for overnight stop at historic Springvale Homestead.

**Day 15: Sat. LITCHFIELD N/PARK**

**(BLD) H**



Detour into Litchfield National Park and see the magnetic termite mounds and beautiful waterfalls. Continue to Darwin - capital of the N.T. and gateway to our rapidly developing north for 2 nights in a hotel. Evening Fish & Chip dinner and sunset cruise on Darwin Harbour.

**Note:** Outback Adventure and Overland Adventure clients join tour in Darwin today at 4.30 pm for welcome dinner.

**Day 16: Sun. DARWIN – THE TOP END**

**(B) H**

Morning and afternoon free to explore or undertake optional touring activities. Maybe this evening we could visit Mindil Market (in season) – noted for its wide varieties of Asian food, art and craft products.

**Day 17: Mon. DARWIN SIGHTSEEING & MARY RIVER**

**(B\*) T/C**

A free day in Darwin to explore this tropical cosmopolitan capital city or to just relax, lunch by own arrangement. Maybe take a day tour to the Tiwi Islands or a visit to some of the other attractions in and around Darwin. The choice is yours. Overnight at Darwin.



**Day 18: Tue. MARY RIVER & KAKADU NAT. PARK (BLD) T**

Depart Darwin and travel south to join the Arnhem Highway. Visit Fog Dam, Mary River homestead and windows on the Wetland. Continuing along the Arnhem Highway crossing the South Alligator River see the Crocodile Motel at the town of Jabiru, HQ of the Ranger Uranium Mine. See Aboriginal cave paintings and visit the Kakadu National Park Headquarters - a wilderness region. Overnight at Cooida in Kakadu – tents for all tonight.

**Day 19: Wed. CRUISES****(BLD) T/C**

Up early for the natural wonders of Yellow Waters - wildlife cruise on the billabong. Such a variety of birds, crocodiles, attractive vegetation, water-lilies and wildflowers - a photographers delight! After breakfast it's on to Pine Creek, a revitalised gold mining town. Your destination today Katherine Gorge in Nitmiluk National Park. Enjoy an afternoon cruise through the gorge. Overnight Knotts Crossing Resort Camping Park in Kakadu.

**Day 20: Thu. THE DEVILS MARBLES SACRED SITE****(BLD) T/C**

Pass through the settlements of Larrimah, Elliot, Renner Springs and the gold mining town of Tennant Creek. Establish camp at Wauchope. Return to the Devils Marbles to photograph this unique, natural region at sunset and tonight perhaps meet the locals over a drink at the bar!

**Day 21: Fri. TO ALICE SPRING****(BLD) T/C**

Journey south along the Stuart Highway passing through several small settlements and cross the Tropic Of Capricorn. As you are still in cattle country you may see the large road trains. In Alice Springs visit the Royal Flying Doctor Base, Standley Chasm and Simpson Gap before settling in to camp at Heavitree Gap Outback Lodge for 2 nights.

**Note: Red Centre Adventure clients join today at 12.30 pm for afternoon touring.**

**Day 22: Sat. EXPLORING THE ALICE****(B\*) T/C**

Today is a free day for you to explore 'The Alice'. Walk to the top of Anzac Hill, for a panoramic view of the town and the MacDonnell Ranges; visit the many Art galleries; the John Flynn Memorial Church; Adelaide House – the first Alice Springs Hospital; the Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame; relax in the mall with its many coffee and souvenir shops. We recommend as an option 'The Sounds of Starlight' spellbinding, musical didgeridoo and visual journey through the outback. Evening free.

**Day 23: Sun. DESERT PARK & ABORIGINAL CULTURE****(BLD) T**

A morning visit to the Alice Springs Desert Park – your essential introduction to The Outback that showcases the cultural and natural environment of arid Australia. This afternoon we will immerse ourselves in Aboriginal culture our local indigenous guides will teach us to throw a boomerang, learn about sand art and dot paintings and maybe sample some bush tucker and kangaroo. Overnight Alice Springs.

**Day 24: Mon. TO WATARRKA NATIONAL PARK****(BLD) T/C**

Depart Alice Springs, visit Jim's Place – the home of the Singing Dingo. At Mount Ebenezer Station view the Aboriginal art gallery, journey to Kings Canyon for a spectacular canyon rim walk.

**Day 25: Tue. ULURU KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK**

**(BLD) T**



On to Curtin Springs Station to Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park (Ayers Rock and The Olgas). There will be time today to visit nearby Kata Tjuta. Overnight Ayers Rock Resort Campground – tents for all.

**Day 26: Wed. WORLD HERITAGE**

**(BLD) T**

Up early to travel to Uluru for sunrise photographs. Afterwards visit the National Park Cultural Centre, climb Uluru or visit some of the sacred sites. Optional flights available. Remainder of afternoon free.

**Day 27: Thu. OPAL FIELDS – COOBER PEDY**

**(BLD) D**

Head south into South Australia and across the gibber plains to Marla. Tonight you are in Coober Pedy, the world's richest opal fields. A late afternoon guided tour of the town shows you an underground church and house, a disused opal mine - maybe see opals cut and polished and purchase one! Here all spend the night underground in a Coober Pedy dugout - an experience to remember!

**Note: Outback Adventure clients conclude their tour after breakfast today. Transfer and free time by own arrangement.**



**Day 28: Fri. FLINDERS RANGES SHEEP STATION STOPOVER**

**(BLD) T/C**

Leaving Coober Pedy pass through Glendambo Sheep Station, see the rocket-launching town of Woomera before reaching Port Augusta at the head of Spencers Gulf. Overnight at Spear Creek Sheep Station - a working property. See a sheep shearing demonstration.



**Day 29: Sat. THE BAROSSA VALLEY**

**(BD) H**

Today cross the lower Flinders Ranges and travel into the wine growing areas of S.A. - the Clare and the Barossa Valleys. Time will be made for some wine tasting. On to Adelaide, the state's capital. Overnight in budget hotel accommodation for all in the central city area.

**Day 30: Sun. ACROSS VICTORIA (B) -**

The final day of your Great Australian Adventure tour takes you through the Adelaide Hills and over the Murray River, travel through the vast wheat growing areas of South Australia and Victoria. If time permits, detour into the Grampians, see the grandeur of this region and the wildlife that abounds. Arrival in Melbourne is approx. 7.30 pm. Arrival point Spencer Street, Melbourne city near Collins Street & Flinders Lane, opposite Southern Cross Station.



## TOUR FARES:

### **Safari (Tent):**

**Tent x 24, motel x 4, other x 1**

Adult: AU\$5250.00

Child: AU\$3250.00

Backpacker\*: AU\$4250.00

Per person, twin share

Single Supp: AU\$1000.00

### **Soft Adventure (Cabin/Tent):**

**Tent x 5, motel x 4, cabin x 19, other x 1**

Adult: AU\$6250.00

Child: AU\$3750.00

Backpacker\*:: \$5000.00

Per person, twin share

Single Supt: AU\$1400.00

**30 days, Sydney to Melbourne including complimentary pre-night in Sydney (conditions apply)**

## TOUR DEPARTURE DATES:

**2009:** August 22; October 10; November 14

**2010:** January 2; February 6; March 13; April 17; June 12; July 17; August 21; October 9; November 13;

**2011:** January 8; February 12; March 19 then similar dates

**Pre Departure Package:** 1½ days Melbourne to including Thursday night motel accommodation, twin share: add AU\$250.00 per person Sydney (adult, student, child).

**Tent Safari Touring:** This is a camping style with twin share, pyramid tents plus 2 nights, twin share hotel accommodation in Darwin; 1 night in Coober Pedy underground dugout and 1 night in twin share hotel accommodation in Adelaide.

**Soft Adventure Style:** provides for the bulk of accommodation in twin and multi share budget style cabin/lodge often without facilities at the caravan/camping parks; 5 nights camping in pyramid tents plus 2 nights, twin share hotel accommodation in Darwin; 1 night in Coober Pedy underground dugout and 1 night in twin share hotel accommodation in Adelaide.

**Sectional Journeys:** Several packaged tours of shorter duration are highlighted in this itinerary – refer Austour's web site for further details. Any 7 day/6 night or greater sector of this itinerary can be purchased on a daily rate basis - **Safari:** AU\$175.00, Backpacker AU\$150.00, Child AU\$110.00; **Soft Adventure:** AU\$210.00, Backpacker AU\$175.00, Child AU\$125.00 per person per night share twin for adults and backpackers, child, twin or multi share.

**Student/Backpacker Fares\*:** including college and university students or holders of YHA, Nomad, VIP or similar backpacker cards. Up to 25 years of age.

**Kanga's Safari Travel Hints:** Austour provides useful pre-departure information. Please ensure that you receive this from your agent or Austour before departure. It is most useful and readily downloaded from **Austour Web site: [www.austour.com.au](http://www.austour.com.au)**

**Remember: This is not a holiday... it's an adventure!**

**Prices and the itinerary are valid till 31/03/11**

This itinerary must be read in conjunction with Austour's Conditions of Travel. Clients booking on this tour do so accepting these conditions that are particularly applicable to travelling in outback and remote areas of Australia.