



Songlines of the Outback

A Journey Through the Red Centre

(Northern Rivers to Darwin)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Arkaroola Ridge Top Tour
- Coober Pedy Underground opal mine tour
- Field of Light Uluru, Uluru & Kata Tjuta, Wintjiri Wiru Sunset Dinner (drone and light show)
- Alice Springs, Simpsons Gap, Alice Springs Desert Park, Old Telegraph Station
- Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles)
- Mataranka Hot Springs
- Historic Daly Waters Hotel
- Kakadu Yellow Water Billabong Sunrise Cruise
- Spectacular Jumping Croc Cruise
- Darwin City Sights Tour

ALSO INCLUDED

Flight from Darwin to Brisbane (Flight numbers and times will be available in late 2025)



ALL INCLUSIVE TOUR:

- ❖ Travel in luxury air-conditioned coach
- ❖ Flight from Darwin to Brisbane
- ❖ 16 nights of ensuite accommodation
- ❖ Most breakfasts, lunches & dinners as per itinerary
- ❖ All attractions highlighted in the itinerary



13th-29th August 2026

17 days



COST:

\$9,800.00 per person twin share

\$2,300.00 extra per person for sole use of room

Limited single rooms available – book asap to secure your room

\$1,960.00 deposit due at time of booking

Full payment due by 12th June 2026

Please see Terms & Conditions for Cancellation Policy

Songlines of the Outback: A Journey Through the Red Centre

17 DAYS

13th to 29th August 2026

ABN: 92 607 321 531



Follow the rhythm of the land and the stories of the Dreaming on a path that connects sacred sites, ancient cultures, and the spirit of the Top End

Day 1 Thursday 13th August Northern Rivers-Coonabarabran

Lunch/Dinner

With great excitement, we join our coach driver and tour leader to embark on our adventure of a lifetime. Today, we make our way to Coonabarabran, known as an ideal place to stargaze.

ACC: TBA

Day 2 Friday 14th August Coonabarabran-Cobar

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner

We have a shorter day today, arriving in Cobar early afternoon giving us time to explore this Central Western town whose economy is based mainly on goldmining and other metals.

ACC: TBA

Day 3 Saturday 15th August Cobar-Broken Hill

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner

We travel through Wilcannia to Broken Hill where we will visit the Line of Lode Miners' Memorial and the Living Desert Sculptures, both of which have outstanding views of the surrounding area.

ACC: Desert Sands

Day 4 Sunday 16th August Broken Hill-Arkaroola

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner

Our route today will depend on the state of the gravel roads we must take to reach **Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary**.

ACC: Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary (2 nights)

Day 5 Monday 17th August Arkaroola

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner



The Ridgetop Tour is an unforgettable experience, showcasing timeless terrain and natural beauty of the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary. The spectacular and thrilling tour has been the premier attraction since 1969. Journey through a landscape as old as the continent itself, across razor-back ridges and peaks of the Flinders Ranges most rugged mountains to the magnificent climax at Sillers Lookout. Travelling in a specially constructed open-top 4WD, passengers are taken on a guided tour of some of the most spectacular rugged country on earth. Experienced tour guides share their knowledge of Arkaroola's 1600-million-year geological history as they navigate the steep slopes and hair-raising ascents of the famous Ridgetop Track. Tonight, weather permitting, there is an option to take the Observatory Tour. Arkaroola not only has one of Australia's state of the art astronomical observatories, but enjoys some of the best astronomical 'seeing conditions' in the whole of the Southern Hemisphere with a night sky is free

of atmospheric and light pollution. (Extra cost; limited numbers; book on arrival at Arkaroola.)

Days 6 Tuesday 18th August Arkaroola-Williams Creek

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner

There is an absolute plethora of natural and man-made attractions today. **The Ochre Cliffs** are a natural attraction where Aboriginal people trekked from many miles away to collect its striking colours to use in their corroborees and to trade. **Farina Township** is located on the old alignment of the Great Northern Railway later known as the Ghan and the stone ruins which date back to the 1880s are being restored. **Marree** is a fascinating historic watering hole and railway town on the edge of the vast desert area of Central Australia at the junction of the Birdsville and Oodnadatta Tracks. **Mutonia Sculpture Park** is a bizarre outdoor gallery located on the Oodnadatta Track with massive sculptures crafted from scrap metals and recycled machinery. **"The Bubbler"** and **"Blanche Cup"** are iconic natural artesian mound springs located in the **Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park**, known for their bubbling water and surrounding lush vegetation. A literal desert oasis, **Coward Springs** is a former railway siding boasting a wetland on the Oodnadatta Track with a natural spa. **Strangways Springs** is an impressive, ruined site that was once the Strangways Telegraph Repeater Station. **William Creek** is a tiny outback town, found on the world's largest cattle station, Anna Creek Station.

ACC: William Creek Cabins

Day 7 Wednesday 19th August William Creek-Coober Pedy

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner

This morning, you have the **OPTIONAL EXTRA: a flight over Lake Eyre**. On the flight enjoy the visual extremities of Lake Eyre, Australia's largest inland lake. It's incredible colours and patterns become accentuated from the air whether full of water or totally dry. A totally captivating flight that will return you both visually impacted and educationally enriched (extra cost). Mid-morning, we travel to **Coober Pedy**, the "Opal Capital of the World". With a local guide, descend beneath the ground and discover a labyrinth of underground houses, hotels, shops and even churches.

ACC: Desert Cave Hotel

Day 8 Thursday 20th August Coober Pedy-Yulara

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner

Today, we journey northward on the Stuart Hwy, named after Scottish explorer John McDouall Stuart, who was the first European to cross Australia from south to north. We turn off at Erlunda to travel the Lassiter Hwy to Yulara. Tonight, after an early dinner, we visit the famous **Field of Light**, covering more than seven football fields, it invites immersion in its fantasy garden of 50,000 spindles of light, the stems breathing and swaying through a sympathetic desert spectrum of ochre, deep violet, blue and gentle white. Later, dinner is served at Mangata Bistro. Mangata offers a diverse range of meals showcasing the finest Australian produce with notes of bush tucker flavours throughout.

ACC: Desert Gardens Hotel (2 nights)

Day 9 Friday 21st August Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

B'fast/Dinner

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park features spectacular geological formations that dominate the vast red sandy plain of central Australia. Uluru, an immense monolith, and Kata Tjuta, the rock domes located west of Uluru, form part of the traditional belief system of one of the oldest human societies in the world. The traditional owners of Uluru-Kata Tjuta are the Anangu Aboriginal people. Today we explore the National Park. **Tonight enjoy the magical Wintjiri Wiru Sunset Dinner**. Your experience begins deep in the desert. After a short journey from Ayers Rock Resort, you'll be greeted with delicious cocktails, infused with native ingredients while taking in the incredible views of Uluru and Kata Tjuta. Take a gentle evening stroll through

the desert along an elevated walkway until you reach the open-air theatre, set upon a dune top. Embark on a culinary adventure with a gourmet dinner hamper where native ingredients are combined with modern culinary techniques to create a masterpiece for the palate. With the heart of Australia as the backdrop, a story passed on for thousands of generations, now passes to you. Choreographed drones, lasers, and projections will take flight, lighting up the night sky in a modern, artistic expression of an ancient, Anangu story. Feel a powerful connection to country as you listen to a traditional Inma soundtrack and narration in the local Pitjantjatjara language, and immerse yourself in a living story.



Day 10 Saturday 22nd August Yulara-Alice Springs

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner

This morning, we travel to Alice Springs, the beating heart of Australia's Red Centre. After booking into our accommodation, we'll have the rest of the afternoon free to explore the resort which is part of Lasseters Casino Complex.

ACC: Crowne Plaza Alice Springs (2 nights)

Day 11 Sunday 23rd August Alice Springs

B'fast/Lunch/HighlightDinner

First today, we visit **Simpsons Gap**, which features the towering cliffs of Simpsons Range, a permanent waterhole and opportunities to spot resident wildlife. Known as Rungutjirpa to the Arrernte Aboriginal people, Simpsons Gap was the mythological home of a group of giant goanna ancestors. At the base of the spectacular West MacDonnell Ranges, the **Alice Springs Desert Park** is closely connected to the local Arrernte people. The stories and history of the Arrernte people, together with the plants and animals they are responsible for, are told through the interpretation and creation of three distinct desert habitats - Desert Rivers, Sand Country and Woodland. These habitats allow visitors to experience desert life as it really is. Guide presentations, a free flying bird show and the opportunity to see endangered animals in the Nocturnal House are some of the highlights. **Alice Springs Old Telegraph Station Historical Reserve** is the best-preserved station along the Overland Telegraph Line and is one of the original sites of European settlement in the township of Stuart, later renamed Alice Springs, established in 1872. From the top of **ANZAC Hill** you're able to see Alice Springs in full, the McDonnell Ranges and sweeping views of the desert surrounding. But as its name suggests, ANZAC Hill was also a very important location for the Australian military during World War II as an army base. Visit the original **Royal Flying Doctor Service Alice Springs** working base that commenced operating in 1939. Discover the importance of the RFDS to outback Australians and the medical care required to service isolated regions. The new John Flynn the hologram is an amazing experience. The pioneering holographic show forms the centrepiece of the facility, as Flynn tells the story of his vision and its realisation into the RFDS of today. Experience our Virtual Reality and connect to the emotions of the RFDS. Relive the true experience of patient Gene Hildebrand and see what it's like to fly with an RFDS pilot. Step inside a replica RFDS aircraft and feel what it's like to be a patient at 15,000 feet. Tonight, enjoy a truly authentic experience as you become immersed in the spirit and grandeur of the Australian Outback at the **Original Outback Bush BBQ**. Be captivated by the setting sun exploding in a ray of colour adrift the great expanse of the Northern Territory sky, on this fun-filled evening of entertainment and outback cuisine in the style of an old-time cattle camp.

Day 12 Monday 24th August Alice Springs-Tennant Creek

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner

After leaving Alice Springs, we stop at Aileron for our morning cuppa. It's the home of the striking giant figures of the 'Anmatjere Man' and 'Woman and Child' - sculptures by Mark Egan that stand 17m high. In the Roadhouse you'll also see a collection of original watercolour paintings by Albert Namatjira – one of the most famous Aboriginal Artists from the Northern Territory. Our lunch stop is a picnic at the infamous Barrow Creek. Experience the impressive sight of the gigantic boulders of the Devils Marbles or Karlu Karlu which provide cooler, sheltered environment for plants and animals.

ACC: Bluestone Motor Inn

Day 13 Tuesday 25th August Tennant Creek-Mataranka

B'fast/Lunch

Our lunch stop today is the iconic **Daly Waters Historic Pub**. Mid-afternoon, we arrive at Mataranka Homestead with plenty of time to enjoy a dip in the delightful thermal springs. Tonight, you can wander over to Maluka's Bar and Jeannie's Kitchen to purchase dinner at your leisure.

ACC: Mataranka Homestead

Day 14 Wednesday 26th August Mataranka-Kakadu

Lunch/Dinner

Enjoy breakfast at your leisure. We stop at Katherine for morning tea and Mary River Roadhouse for lunch before entering **Kakadu National Park** where we head straight to **Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) Aboriginal Art Site**. In the main (Anbangbang) gallery you'll see the Creation Ancestor Namondjok, and the Creation Ancestor Namarrkon, the Lightning Man. Climb to the Kunwarddewardde Lookout, and be rewarded with sweeping views of both Kakadu's escarpment and Burrungkuy (Nourlangie Rock).



ACC: Cooinda Lodge

Day 15 Thursday 27th August Kakadu-Darwin

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner

Yellow Water Billabong dawn cruise, one of the World's Greatest Wildlife Experiences! As the sun paints the water's surface with a warm golden glow, the billabong exhibits its basking crocodiles, vibrant birdlife, and the tranquil rhythm of nature. Guided by knowledgeable locals, the tour unfolds the intricate relationship between local Bininj/Mungguy (Indigenous) people, their culture and the significance of these waterways to their existence for thousands of years. The Yellow Water Cruise is an exploration of Australia's true beauty, and one you'll remember for a lifetime. We enjoy breakfast after the cruise then depart, travelling through Kakadu National Park to Jabiru, then on to the Adelaide River to embark on an exhilarating open-air journey along the Adelaide River, where our knowledgeable skipper will guide us up close to witness the incredible power and majesty of crocodiles in their untamed WILD habitat. Experience the ultimate adventure that will leave you in awe of nature's raw beauty!

ACC: Adina Apartments Darwin Waterfront (2 nights)

Day 16 Friday 28th August Darwin

B'fast/Lunch/Dinner

This morning, we have a **guided tour of Darwin City** with informative commentary. Discover the historic sites of Darwin city including the East Point Military Precinct & Stokes Hill Wharf as well as gaining some knowledge and insight into Australia's World War 2 history and the bombing of Darwin, with time to explore the **Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory**. Enjoy a free afternoon to explore at leisure.

Day 17 Saturday 29th August Darwin-Northern Rivers

B'fast/Inflight meals

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Darwin Airport for the flight to Brisbane where you will be met by our driver to transfer you to the Northern Rivers with many wonderful memories of your tour through the Red Centre.

PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary is a guide only. Simes Bros reserves the right to substitute venues if necessary. At the time of printing, not all venues have opened their bookings for 2026.

ACC: Adina Apartments Darwin Waterfront (2 nights)

For bookings: Simes Bros Coaches - 21 Snow Street, South Lismore (in person) or post to PO Box 5421, East Lismore NSW 2480 ~ 02 6621 5416 ~ tours@sbcoaches.com.au

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This tour is designed for active seniors and it is an essential requirement that each passenger be able to negotiate coach steps without the aid of our crew or other non-related passengers. No passenger will be permitted to continue on the tour while their mental or physical condition is such as to render them incapable of caring for themselves. As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering safe and enjoyable travel experiences, we encourage passengers to ensure they are fit to undertake the activities and travel outlined in our tour itineraries. If unsure, passengers should enquire with our staff at the time of booking. Where a passenger is unsure of their fitness to travel, they should consult a doctor for advice prior to booking travel. Passengers who take regular medication should ensure they carry enough to cover their daily requirements for the duration of the tour.

MOBILITY

- ❖ Walking is a fundamental part of this tour and as such, requires, at the minimum, a moderate level of fitness. You will be expected to walk and stand for extended periods, including walking upstairs unaided and climbing hills and walking over uneven ground including soft sand. If you choose to book this tour and don't meet the mobility requirements, you must expect that you will not be able to participate in all tours, attractions and activities. Walking aids are not suitable for this tour.
- ❖ Get on and off transportation multiple times unaided.
- ❖ Downstairs rooms and walk-in showers are not available in some locations and cannot be guaranteed in others.
- ❖ You **must** be able to manage your own luggage to and from allocated rooms, which could be upstairs or some distance to walk, without assistance from our crew or other passengers.
- ❖ **Accommodation** will be a variety of motel/hotel style rooms. We use 4/5 star venues wherever possible, or the best available in remote locations. All will have private ensuites.
- ❖ In some locations, we use the services of an expert local guide. Sometimes their vehicles may not be luxury due to terrain.
- ❖ **Meals:** Many lunches will be picnic lunches prepared by our crew with help from passengers. Some breakfasts will be light continental eaten in rooms. There will be times when we have a large lunch and a very light dinner.
- ❖ **Optional extras:**
 - Lake Eyre flight – one hour: \$390 extra per person
- ❖ **Seating Rotation** is compulsory including for passengers prone to motion sickness. However, if you prefer to stay in the same seat and sit in the back half of the coach, this may be possible. Due to less leg room, the front seat will not be part of the rotation but passengers may choose to use this seat on occasions after discussion with tour leader/coach driver. Please note that payment of the single supplement amount is to cover single room costs and does not cover payment of a double seat on the coach. If you book a single room, please note you may be seated with another single booking on the coach at times.