

STUART'S COACHES

LAKE EYRE & FLINDERS RANGES



Day 1 (LD): NOWRA TO HAY: Wednesday 20 May 2020

Welcome to our 11-day tour to **Lake Eyre** and the **Flinders Ranges**. Today we depart Stuarts depot at 6.30am and travel west through Goulburn, Yass and Wagga Wagga, stopping for lunch along the way. We continue our travels via Narrandera to our overnight stop in **Hay**. (*Dinner in motel, lunch en route*)

Bishops Lodge Motor Inn, Hay – PH: 02 6993 1901

Day 2 (BD): HAY TO BARMERA: Thursday 21 May 2020

Following breakfast, we begin our day's travels. This morning our journey takes us across the Hay plain through **Balranald** and **Robinvale** to **Mildura**. We can have some free time to purchase lunch in Mildura and then head into South Australia's Riverland district, with our afternoon tea stop at the riverside brewery called Wilkadene. The **Wilkadene Woolshed Brewery** is the Riverland's only independent craft brewery – and, as its located on the banks of the Murray River, its known as a "Brew with a View!" Based in a 100-year-old shearing shed this is a truly unique cellar door experience and for anyone not wanting to try the local brews, afternoon tea will also be available. From here we drive through Renmark and arrive at our accommodation for the night in Barmera. (*Breakfast & dinner in the hotel, Lunch own expense in Mildura*)

Comfort Inn & Suites Riverland, Barmera – PH: 08 8588 2888

Day 3 (BLD): BARMERA TO THE FLINDERS RANGES: Friday 22 May 2020

Back on the coach we set off for **Burra** and have our morning break from the coach. Copper from Burra's "**Monster Mine**" saved South Australia from bankruptcy in the 1840's. It was the largest metal mine in the country employing 1000 people. Cornish and Welsh miners flocked to Burra to work for the South Australian Mining Association and some set up homes in dugouts hewn out of the banks of the Burra Creek. From Burra we head to Melrose for our lunch stop at the **North Star Hotel**. This afternoon we travel north to the Pt Augusta Railway Station where we will travel on a restored **Diesel Railcar** from Pt Augusta to Quorn, along the **Pichi Richi Railway**, the last remaining operating portion of the famous Ghan railway. Built in the 1870s, it meanders past deep rock cuttings, superb stone wall embankments and spectacular iron bridges. From Quorn we head to the **Kanyaka Homestead Ruins**, then drive to the **Wilpena Pound Resort**. This will be our base for the next 2 nights as we explore the National Park. (*Breakfast & dinner in the hotel, Lunch included*)

Wilpena Pound Resort - 08 8648 0004

Day 4 (BLD): THE FLINDERS RANGES: Saturday 23 May 2020

A local guide will join us on-board the coach for a tour of this stunning National Park. The **Flinders Ranges** are well known for their wildflowers, but it's the dramatic gorges and spectacular peaks that are the real highlights of this beautiful part of Australia. We drive through two gorges - **Brachina Gorge** and **Bunyeroo Gorge** then visit **Gumcreek Station**, situated on **Wockerawirra Creek** on the northern boundary of the Flinders Ranges National Park, for our picnic lunch. Mid-afternoon, we return to the Wilpena Pound Resort (*please note that the above touring is all subject to weather and road conditions*). There is now time for private walking, or a visit to the Interpretative Centre. Late afternoon we set off for our "**Stokes Hill Sundowners**". We can observe the changing colours of sunset over Wilpena Pound with a refreshing drink and canapes. Marvel at this vast ancient landscape from a spectacular local viewing location – Stokes Hill, where we get a spectacular 360° panorama. (*Don't forget your camera and wear some warm clothes!*) Early evening, we return to the resort for a 2-course dinner. (*Breakfast and Dinner in hotel, picnic lunch today*)

Day 5 (BLD): FLINDERS TO MARREE: Sunday 24 May 2020

We travel north today, out of the Flinders Ranges National Park, through to Leigh Creek for our lunch stop. The Northern Flinders are not as well-known and are a little more difficult to get to than Wilpena Pound – but the effort is worth it! This afternoon we stop at the **Farina ruins**. The town is no longer inhabited, but there is a group of dedicated volunteers eager to bring the small settlement back to life. The locals have been restoring crumbling buildings and putting stories of previous residents on show throughout what was once a close-knit outback community. After walking through the ruins and reading the stories, we can only imagine how harsh life must have been one hundred years ago, when many people called this place home. Our destination this afternoon is in **Marree** at the **Marree Hotel** and located out the front of the hotel are the remains of the Ghan Railway that once was an integral part of this town's history. (*Breakfast, lunch and dinner included*)

Marree Hotel, Marree – 08 8675 8344

Day 6 (BLD): LAKE EYRE FLIGHTS: Monday 25 May 2020

Bring your camera, as this morning we take to the skies for an incredible scenic flight over **Lake Eyre**. This amazing Basin covers almost one-sixth of Australia and is one of the world's largest internally draining river systems. Our plane then turns to the **Painted Hills**, an area swathed in a variety of earthy outback colours and are only accessible and visible by air. The flight will be conducted at a height low enough to experience the intricate details of the beautifully eroded shelf that once belonged to the great inland sea. (*Breakfast & dinner at hotel / lunch at William Creek Hotel*)

Day 7 (BLD): MARREE TO PETERBOROUGH: Tuesday 26 May 2020

After breakfast we depart Marree and drive back through Leigh Creek and Hawker. We're still north of the famed Goyders Line that was marked on the map in 1865 by Surveyor General George Woodroffe Goyder to delineate drought affected country. The line became an important factor in settlement planning in this State, being regarded as an indication of the limits of the lands considered safe for agricultural development. As we will see from the many ruins on the Wilochra Plain, many early settlers didn't take Goyders advice! This afternoon we arrive into Peterborough. The railways officially arrived in town when the line from Jamestown opened. Soon Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Adelaide and the Silverton Mines (Broken Hill area) were all connected by rail tracks that passed through Peterborough. The town forged ahead in leaps and bounds with the railways playing a major part in the development of it. The best place to get familiar with the history of the area is the **Steamtown Museum** which has undergone extensive expansion and refurbishment. We check into our hotel, then this evening we return to the museum for the **sound and light**

show. We find our seats in a comfortably restored 1916 historic rail carriage placed on a 3 gauge turntable. We spend an hour moving through the tunnels of time to learn about Peterborough, railways in South Australia and the many fascinating personal stories associated with it. The experience propels us into being part of the last two centuries and will top off our day perfectly. *(Breakfast & dinner at hotel / lunch in Hawker at Flinders Food Co)*

Roundhouse Motel, Peterborough - 08 8651 2078

Day 8 (BLD): PETERBOROUGH TO WHITE CLIFFS: Wednesday 27 May 2020

From South Australia we head back into New South Wales and arrive in Broken Hill for lunch at **Bells Milk Bar**, where we can step back in time. Whilst in Broken Hill we can visit the Line of Load memorial, then this afternoon we pass through **Wilcannia**, which was once known as Queen City of the West. The way of life out here is extremely different and a memorable experience. Late afternoon we arrive into White Cliffs and check into the White Cliffs Hotel Motel for the next 2 nights. *(Breakfast & dinner at Motel, lunch in Broken Hill)*

White Cliffs Hotel Motel - 08 8091 6606

Day 9 (BLD): WHITE CLIFFS OPAL FIELDS: Thursday 28 May 2020

The **White Cliffs Opal Fields** were the first commercial fields in New South Wales. The first lease was granted in 1890 and by 1899 the fields were supporting 4500 people. Today over 50,000 mine shafts dot the landscape around White Cliffs – a legacy of the relentless search for opal. In fact, after quite a number of years with very little success, a major opal find was confirmed in the area in September 2000. No doubt the digging will continue! In contrast to the mainly old time hand methods of mining the town is today powered by a very modern solar power station. Our locally based guide will join us for the morning to visit underground homes, fossick for opal and takes us to some of the local galleries and shops. We will also take a tour of an Opal Mine and have lunch at the Red Earth cafe. It should be a fascinating day! *(Breakfast & BBQ dinner at Hotel Motel, lunch included)*

Day 10 (BLD): WHITE CLIFFS TO PARKES: Friday 29 May 2020

We farewell our hosts and re-join the highway near Wilcannia and drive to Cobar. Our visit here and our lunch stop is at **The Great Cobar Heritage Centre**, located in the former Administration Building (circa 1910) of the Great Cobar Copper Mine. The centre captures the essence of Cobar, housing an outstanding collection of exhibits which date from the early 1870s to the present day. Inside the amazing collection of artefacts reveals the extraordinary diverse local heritage of Cobar. We press on this afternoon and arrive into Parkes for our final night's accommodation for the tour. *(Breakfast & dinner at Motel, lunch in Cobar)*

North Parkes Motel - 02 6863 4333

Day 11 (BL): HEADING HOME: Saturday 30 May 2020

Our final journey takes us south through Goulburn, as we make our way back to the South Coast of NSW. We arrive home later today to complete our fabulous 11-day tour to Lake Eyre and the Flinders Ranges. *(Breakfast in motel / lunch at en-route)*

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures, inclement weather etc.

Deposits Due upon booking \$300 per person.
Full payment due 16th March 2020.

Booking Conditions

Accommodation is on a share room basis in Motels, Hotels and the like. Single Supplement will apply if no twin share is available. The accommodation named may be altered without notice. The right is reserved to amend or modify the itinerary at any time without notice for unpredictable weather or road conditions or for any other reason beyond our control.

Cancellation Fees: In the event of the cancellation of a tour the following fees apply;

- 60 days or more prior to departure, loss of deposit.
- Between 7 and 59 days prior to departure, 50% of tour price.
- Less than 7 days prior to departure, 100% of tour price.

Refunds: No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour after departure.

Responsibilities: Please label luggage clearly. Stuarts Travel advises that the service it provides is for the booking and packaging of goods and services provided by other operators such as hotels, motels, and transportation companies. Passengers are advised to familiarize themselves with the terms and conditions on which these services are supplied. Accordingly, Stuarts Travel will not be responsible and will be excluded from any liability for any loss, damage, omission or acts being negligent or otherwise, committed by the operators of airlines, coach lines, rail travel, hotels / motels or attractions used in connection with the tour.

Passengers rotate in the Coach, giving every one forward and window seating. Min. No's do apply.
B – Breakfast L – Lunch D – Dinner Insurance is recommended

Payment to Stuarts Travel acknowledges that you have read, understand and accept these booking conditions.