

Wodonga Senior Secondary College

Northern Territory itinerary (as at 16.05.2023)

16 Day Darwin, Top End and Central Australian excursion.

Departing Friday July 5, 2024

DAY 1 Friday July 5 DARWIN (D)

Meeting at the College at 6.00 am we travel by bus to be at the Tullamarine Airport at 11.00 am to join our Virgin Australia flight direct to Darwin (Virgin flight QF 1461 departing at 12.55 pm) On arrival in Darwin at 5.00 pm we will be met by our special Northern Territory coach & crew and enjoy a brief city tour before heading to set up our camp and enjoy dinner.

Camp for the next 2 nights is at the Lee Point Caravan Park.

Emergency contact. Tel: 08 8945 0535

DAY 2 Saturday July 6 LITCHFIELD PARK (BLD)

Today we travel into Litchfield National Park. Many try to compare Kakadu and Litchfield, which is a mistake, as both have their own particular beauty. Just 2 hours south of Darwin, Litchfield has gained the reputation as the jewel of the Northern Territories crown. The 65,000 ha National Park has untouched rainforests, hot springs, magnificent waterfalls and stunning scenery. We will visit a number of falls including Florence, Tolmer and Wangi and if conditions allow there will be time for a swim at Florence and Wangi Falls. Also included is a visit to the unique termite mounds. After an interesting day we return to our camp in Darwin. After dinner travel into Darwin to enjoy a movie at the unique Deck Chair cinema.

DAY 3 Sunday July 7

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK - JABIRU (BLD)

Commence today with a visit to the exciting Royal Flying Doctor Service, founded by the Rev John Flynn. The RFDS first began its aero-medical operations in the NT in 1939. We'll be able to see, experience

and learn as this facility brings history to life. Also featured is the bombing of Darwin Harbour and destruction of the city in 1942. Many of the experiences and stories of what happened that day are told & presented in a unique & exciting way. We then continue on to Crocodylus Park for a private tour. This is one of the best places to come face to face with the largest reptiles on the planet. Built upon 30 years' experience in crocodile research and conservation, the Park's trained tour guide helps us to understand crocodile & wildlife conservation & research. After lunch it's on to Australia's largest National Park, Kakadu. Enjoy a swim at the caravan park before dinner. Camp for the next 2 nights is at the Kakadu Lodge Caravan Park.

Emergency contact. Tel: 08 8979 2422

DAY 4 Monday July 8

YELLOW WATERS CRUISE – NOURLANGIE and UBIRR ROCKS (BLD)

This morning we travel to Coinda for an early morning cruise on the Heritage Listed Yellow Waters Lagoon. We will see a myriad of water birds, crocodiles and goannas in their natural habitat as we cruise the freshwater World Heritage listed floodplains of the upper South Alligator River. After a scrumptious breakfast we travel to Nourlangie Rock where we will visit the Anbangbang Gallery (archaeological dig site) and the Anbangbang Gallery (art site with creation stories). From Nourlangie we travel to Warradjan Aboriginal Centre to gain an insight into the cultural significance the Park holds for its traditional owners. In the afternoon we travel to Ubirr where we get to marvel at the great scenery of the East Alligator region and the extensive rock paintings. Climbing to the top of Ubirr Rock we enjoy views and a great sunset over the wetlands before returning to camp for dinner.

DAY 5 Tuesday July 9 KAKADU – KATHERINE (BLD)

A leisurely start today as we continue towards the Stuart Highway and Pine Creek. We travel to the 4th largest township in the Northern Territory, Katherine. Upon arrival in Katherine we set up camp and then enjoy an afternoon of leisure and fun.

Camp tonight is at the Katherine Gorge Caravan Park.

Emergency contact: Tel: 08 8972 1253

DAY 6 Wednesday July 10

KATHERINE GORGE - DALY WATERS (BLD)

Up early this morning as we enjoy a 2 hour sunrise cruise through spectacular Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge). A local guide will accompany us providing information on the extensive plant and wildlife in the gorges. See ancient rock walls ablaze in brilliant colour and dotted with Aboriginal paintings. The National Park here was created to preserve one of the NT's greatest natural wonders. There are 13 gorges in the system carved out of sandstone rock by territorial rains over millions of years. After our cruise we continue on through to the beautiful Mataranka Homestead and thermal pools for a relaxing swim. Here every minute 16,500 litres of water at a constant temperature of 34 degrees gush into the clear crystal pool fringed with palm trees. Continuing on to our overnight camp at the Daly Waters Hotel Caravan Park. Tonight we enjoy dinner at the famous Daly Water Pub.

Emergency contact: Tel: 08 8975 9927

DAY 7 Thursday July 11

DALY WATERS – ALICE SPRINGS (BLD)

This morning we depart from Daly Waters and continue south along the Stuart Highway to arrive at the Devil's Marbles, located 90kms south of Tennant Creek. Here hundreds of granite boulders lie scattered across the plain, some huge, some tiny and some perched in impossible positions. To the geologist they are the remains of the ancient mountains that once rose here, but to the Aboriginal people they are the eggs of the Rainbow Serpent Wanambi. In the afternoon continue onto to Alice Springs.

Camp for the next 2 nights at the Discovery Parks.

Emergency contact. Tel: 08 8952 6111

DAY 8 Friday July 12 ALICE SPRINGS (BLD)

This morning we depart Alice Springs for a short journey to Standley Chasm to enjoy our exclusive Aboriginal cultural experience commencing at 9.00 am. Surrounded by the Western MacDonnell Ranges National Park, Standley Chasm is located in a private flora and fauna reserve owned by the Iwupataka Land Trust, Angkerle Aboriginal Corporation is a unique enterprise. It is 100% Aboriginal

owned and operated by the local community who are direct descendants of the Western Arrernte Aboriginal people, who have lived in this area for tens of thousands of years. Our morning includes guided walk to the dramatic 80 metre rock-face of the narrow chasm following the natural creek-bed until the trail turns into a rocky creek bed in the centre of the chasm. Angkerle Atwatye "the Gap of Water" is a striking geological formation that has significant botanical and photography appeal as well as bird watching and wildlife viewing opportunities. Our morning also includes the painting of your own boomerang and a presentation on Aboriginal Art. The morning concludes with kangaroo tail tasting and damper cooking around the camp fire and a presentation on bush tucker, weapon display and a cross-cultural talk. After lunch we will continue our sightseeing with a visit the Alice Springs Reptile Park where we will entertained by Rex and his large display of reptiles. There will be time available this afternoon for shopping in the mall in Alice Springs. In the late afternoon we will travel to Anzac Hill for panoramic sunset views over the Alice Springs township & surrounding MacDonnell Ranges.

DAY 9 Saturday July 13 ALICE - KINGS CANYON (BLD)

This morning you depart The Alice and head along the Lasseter Highway to travel across Angas Downs Station to Kings Canyon to set up our camp. In the afternoon travel to Kings Canyon located in the Wataarka National Park.

Camp for the next 3 nights is at Discovery Parks Kings Canyon Frontier Caravan Park.

Emergency contact. Tel: 08 8956 7442

**DAYS 10 and 11 Sunday July 14 and Monday July 15
Wanmarra Community (BLD)**

After breakfast we travel a short journey to the Wanmarra Community. On arrival we meet Peter the leader, and other members of the community. The community here are working hard at building their own horticulture and other projects. Our aim is to assist them over a 2 day period in achieving part of their plans for the future. After our day's work we return to the caravan park where there is an opportunity to purchase an optional quad bike or helicopter rides. On Monday morning after an early breakfast we travel to Kings Canyon

for a morning climb to the top of the canyon rim which offers spectacular views. Red sandstone walls plunge into lush vegetation and natural rock pools. We'll view the "Garden of Eden" and the domes of "The Lost City". After what is one of the best walks in Central Australia we return to the Wanmarra Community to continue our work assisting our new friends at the community.

DAY 12 Tuesday July 16 THE OLGAS & ULURU (BLD)

Up early as we travel to Yulara and Uluru. After setting up camp at Yulara we will travel out to see & walk around Uluru. The size & majesty of the "Rock" is amazing. After our walk we'll continue on to Sunset Strip to view the amazing colour changes as the sun sets over Uluru. Camp at the Ayers Rock Resort Campground for 2 nights.

Emergency contact. Tel: 08 8957 7001

Day 13 Wednesday July 17 ULURU (BLD)

We're up early this morning to watch the sunrise on Kata Tjuta. The size and grandeur of these 36 massive domes is simply impressive. These ancient, weather-beaten mountains covering an area of 3500 ha are far larger and just as imposing as Uluru. We then do the exciting walk into the "Valley of the Winds ". Here you will be dwarfed by the near vertical walls of the domes. Next we visit the Uluru Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre operated by the Anangu people, the traditional owners of Uluru. The Centre consists of two buildings shaped to represent the ancestral snakes of Kuniya and Liru. Learn about the culture and Tjukurpa (Aboriginal Law) of the Anangu.

Day 14 Thursday July 18 Uluru – Coober Pedy (BLD)

After a great time in the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park we sadly depart today as we commence our travel towards the fascinating town of Coober Pedy. We'll have stops at Kulgera – "the first & last pub in the NT" as well as Marla Bore. On arrival at Coober Pedy we'll have a locally guided tour to an underground home before visiting the Umoona Opal Mine, which was once a real working mine. We'll learn about the history & mining of opals and see a demonstration of opal cutting and polishing. Tonight we sleep in real underground dugout at the Umoona Opal Mine.

Emergency contact. Tel: 08 8672 5288

Day 15 Friday July 19 Coober Pedy – Home (B)

After breakfast today we commence our Express Travel home as continue south along the Stuart Highway through Glendambo to Port Augusta. Then it's through Peterborough and Burra. Kindly note that meals whilst travelling on the express section are at passengers own expense.

Day 16 Saturday July 20 to Wodonga

The last day of our exciting Northern Territory tour comes to an end as we arrive back at Wodonga Senior Secondary College at approximately 9.00 am.

**Inclusion of meal codes: B = breakfast L = Lunch D = dinner
(41 meals in total)**