



# Flinders Ranges SA

## 11 Day Tag-Along Adventure Tour

*PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary is just a guide. It is subject to change due to weather, road conditions, breakdowns and other conditions out of our control. Please allow flexibility on the tour to maximise your enjoyment.*

### Pre-tour.

Meet and greet at Yunta SA the evening before the tour. We will have dinner together at the Yunta Hotel, to get to know each other and go over any last minute questions. Accommodation can be organised at the hotel if you require (basic hotel rooms, additional cost) or there are camping facilities across from the pub. If you are able to fuel up your vehicle and jerry cans today, fuel station is across the road from the pub.

### Day 1. Yunta to a Moro Gorge campground in Nantawarrinna IPA.

Meet and greet at the vacant block across from the BP service station in the main street of Yunta SA, ready to depart at 8:00am sharp.

From Yunta we will make our way out on the Tea Tree Rd, stopping to check out old ruins of homesteads, townships and mines as we make our way past Frome Downs, with a meal break included. From Frome Downs we will travel to the amazing Mt Chambers Gorge to view the local landscape and rock art. From Mt Chambers Gorge we will make the journey across to Nantawarrinna IPA via private road past old homesteads and mine site. Once in Nantawarrinna we will trek out to Moro Gorge campground to set up camp and go for a walk and swim in the absolutely stunning rock pools and gorge, careful not to wake up the local serpent. After a refreshing dip and view of the gorge you will make your way back to camp. Meanwhile we will have your fire pit BBQ ready to eat when you arrive back to sit around the camp fire and share a meal, drinks and a few stories of previous trips or what to expect during this tour.

### Day 2. Moro Gorge Campground to Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary.

Rise and shine for breakfast, we pack up camp and make our way from Moro Gorge campground north to the Nepabunna-Copley Rd. On this road we will pass through Italowie Gorge before hitting the Arkaroola Rd at Balcanoona. From Balcanoona we will head north stopping in at Weetootla Gorge, Wooltana Cave, Nudlamutana Hut, Ochre Wall and more, with our final destination for the day the Famous Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary. On arrival we will set up camp and have a quick look around the area, possible a swim in the pool for those that are keen to cool off or refresh themselves. Tonight we will immerse ourselves at the observatory and "Explore the Cosmos", learning about the night sky and what it means to the area.

### Day 3. Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary

Today will be spent driving around this spectacular area, there are numerous tracks and trails to explore. Our main goal for the day will be to cover the Ecocamp Back Track, this is the properties 4WD track that is only accessible via a locked gate. Let's make it a great day and test our skills on this well-known track. Other points of interest to visit along the way are Arkaroola Waterhole, Eco Camp ruins and waterhole, Paralana Hot Springs (no swimming) and Barranna Gorge. We will finish the day with a big cook up. It's time for a few beverages and laughs around the fire discussing the trip and our adventures so far.



#### **Day 4. Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary to Warrawenna Conservation Park.**

A bit of a big day today, up and ready to go early there is a lot to cover. Leaving Arkaroola we will head west towards Copley and Leigh Creek, visiting or passing through The Old Bollana Smelters, Yankaninna, Owieandana and Mt Serle onto the formed Copley Rd through Depot Springs to Copley where we can refuel and add supplies if needed.

Copley to Leigh Creek town, this old coal mining town is being pulled down and only 20% of the town will remain, the rest will be demolished and destroyed as the house were full of asbestos and the coal mine has been closed down. From Leigh Creek it's a short drive out to Aroona Dam for a quick stop to view what was Leigh Creek's water supply, but has now been stocked with fish and can be used for recreational activities. From here we will head south down the Outback Highway turning off onto the dirt again making our way to the old township of Beltana, here we can have a look around at the history of this old town that is still lived in. From Beltana it's a short drive onto Warrawenna Conservation Park. There is the Sliding Rock Mine ruins on the way through to the homestead where we will find out which campsite we have been allocated. Grabbing the key for tomorrow's drive and directions, we will 4wd to our campsite and setup up for a relaxing fire and meal.

#### **Day 5. Warrawenna Conservation Park**

Today will be spent driving around this rugged and diverse park, there are numerous tracks and trails to explore. Our goal for today will be to arrive at the specular look out at Mt Gill, the views from this look out are breathe taking, from the valleys and hills we have travelled through to the homestead itself and of course in the distance Lake Torrens. The tracks will test your skills in dry creek beds, rock climbs, obstacles and hill climbs and descents. We will finish the day with a big cook up. It's time for a few beverages and laughs around the fire discussing the trip and our adventures so far.

#### **Day 6. Warrawenna Conservation Park to Parachilna Gorge.**

Today will be an easy day, after breakfast and packing up camp we will leave Warrawenna Conservation Park and take The Old Copper Track south towards Blinman. This private road takes us through some remote tracks through 3 stations on our way to camp. The track has a little bit of everything some long drives in sandy/rocky creek beds, some travelling on ridges, a couple of amazing look outs, a few old ruins and huts, quite a few steep creek crossings until our lunch time destination of the Nuccaleena mine ruins, these historic ruins date back to the 1850's and have plenty to offer, including a climb into an old mine shaft to say hello to the local bat families. After lunch we will continue on down the track past Moolooloo Station to find a shady camp under the trees in Parachilna Gorge. After setting up camp we will sneak into Parachilna to check out the historical facts of the town and its famous fossils, and of course have a look in the Prairie Hotel for a refreshment. Once done here we will head back to camp for a warm meal and some good stories around the fire.

#### **Day 7. Parachilna Gorge to Willow Springs.**

Today will explore the Blinman Township and area. Blinman – is the highest town in South Australia at 616m above sea level, tourists travel to this area to enjoy the Outback of South Australia and to see the ancient geology of the area. There is plenty to see in Blinman so make the most of our short stop here, including a beverage at The North Blinman Hotel (The highest pub in SA). There will be an underground mine tour booked here for those that want to really immerse themselves in the history of copper mining in South Australia. After checking out the sites, and having some lunch it's time to get moving to our last stop for the day, Willow Springs, a short drive on bitumen to the turn off into the station. Stopping at the



homestead to book in and get the rundown on Skytrek before making our way to our camp site. Here we will set up camp for 2 nights.

### **Day 8. Willow Springs and SkyTrek.**

Let's start the day off with a scrumptious cooked breakfast before we take on Skytrek.

One of Australia's popular and most diverse 4WD journeys to be experienced.

This track must be started no later than 10:30am to enjoy the magnificent seven hour trek.

Set on Willow Springs Station, our 70,000 acre sheep property, **SKYTREK** is an 80km, Self-Drive off road adventure, taking you through majestic river red gum-lined creeks, groves of native pines and black oak, over blue bush plains, through rugged mountain valleys and ascends and descends over multiple mountain ranges.

With the aid of a self guiding map experience the unique and outstanding features such as ruins of old shepherd's huts, ochre cliffs, aboriginal etchings, natural springs and the 'original' Willow Springs waterhole. The modern and historic points of interest including windmills, mustering yards and stock ratios give you a better understanding of the Pastoral operation of the Station whilst a large variety of flora, fauna and geological features educate and inspire the wanderlust in all of us.

Dinner will be a beautiful camp oven meal, were we can sit back with full bellies around the fire and discuss the day's adventures.

### **Day 9. Willow Springs to Bendleby Ranges.**

Today will be a big day, after breakfast and packing up camp we will leave Willow Springs. It's only a short drive to Sacred Canyon (short hike to rock art and canyon) and Wilpena Pound, here we will do the Wangarra lookout walk, it's not a difficult walk but will take some time so comfortable shoes, water and a snack is advised. When we arrive back at Hills Homestead we will have some lunch. After lunch we will head south again to Hawker, here we can refuel and get supplies if needed. From Hawker we will travel to Craddock, here you will have time to check out the Big Hat and the famous Craddock Hotel. From Craddock it's a cross country drive for about 45 mins to our last stop for the day which is Bendleby Ranges, after checking in with Charlie and Kylie we will find our camp spot, here we will set up camp for 2 nights. There will hopefully be time to check out a couple of the shorter and easier tracks before bed.

### **Day 10. Bendleby and Hungry Ranges.**

Bendleby Ranges is a combination of two adjoining properties 'The Springs' and 'Gumdale' totalling 15,000 ha (approx 37,000 acres). Originally they were part of the Coonatto and Pekina Pastoral Runs, but after the government resumed the land in 1872, were sold off as "agricultural" land. Situated more than 50km "outside" of Goyder's Line, farming was unsustainable.

The many settler ruins which are scattered across the properties are testimony to the harshness and climate vagaries. The Ellery family (Gumdale) and Luckraft family (The Springs) have owned these properties for over 45 years. Today the properties, whilst separately managed, offer you some of our well-kept secrets. The beautiful creeks, valleys, ranges and shimmering plains are part of us, and we share with you some of our heritage. We will spend today exploring all that this still working station has to offer, from some easier lead in tracks right through to the famous Billy Goats Ridge Track, not for the faint hearted this track will test even the most experienced drivers. After a gruelling day of excellent 4wding it will be time to head back to camp for the final supper, a big fire, plenty of laughs, some beverages and a time to reflect on everything we have achieved.

### **Day 11. Bendleby Ranges to home.**



The last day of tour, up at a relaxed time for breakfast, pack up camp and maybe a quick drive on a track not taken (time permitting) if not we will take the scenic drive from Bendleby via Johnburgh to Orroroo. At Orroroo we can fuel up and say our goodbyes before making our way home.

**Meal possibilities (not available every day) – GF options for most meals if required**

**Breakfast menu**

Bacon & Eggs  
Pancakes or French toast  
Toast/Toasties (Jaffles)  
Cereal (limited selections)  
Fruit (when available/limited selections)  
Croissants

**Occasional morning tea options when available**

Fresh Cooked Damper/Scones/Bacon and cheese loaf  
Biscuits  
Cakes/slices  
Fruit (when available)  
Tea & Coffee

**Lunch menu**

Hot dogs/Nachos  
Chicken Schnitzel or Roast meat rolls  
Pies/Sausage rolls/sausage rolls/mini pizzas  
Pulled Pork/Beef rolls with coleslaw  
Various sandwich options (rolls, Salada's, wraps)

**Dinner menu**

BBQ meat and salads (snags/chops/chicken skewers/steak/ribs)  
Souvlaki/kebabs/Homemade hamburgers  
Camp Oven Meals – Roast/Stew  
Spaghetti/Pasta  
Savoury mince  
Stirfry meat and vegetables  
Tacos/Burritos/Fajitas (Mexican night)  
Butter Chicken/Honey Mustard chicken and rice (or similar)  
Dinner provided at specified pubs/restaurants (\$35 per head limit)  
Desserts in camp oven, Damper, Cookies, Brownie