

# Flinders Ranges SA



## 7 or 9 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.*

### **Day 1. Burra to a camp ground in Mount Remarkable NP.**

Meet and greet at the BP service station at 1 Upper Thames St Burra, ready to depart at 9:00am sharp. From Burra we will make our way to Melrose via Hallett, Jamestown, Appia and Booleroo Centre. After a bite to eat at Melrose we will make our way into Mount Remarkable National Park. After checking out numerous tourist attractions and points of interest we will be reaching camp at one of the many well presented camp grounds.

Once here you will have time to set up camp, relax and explore the area. Meanwhile we will be getting 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. Mount Remarkable NP to Bendleby Ranges.**

Rise and shine for breakfast, we pack up camp and make our way through the last of Mount Remarkable NP heading to Wilmington, Carrieton, and the historic Johnburgh, and finally into Bendleby Ranges. Here we will set up camp early and then take on some of the easier 4WD tracks in the Bendleby Ranges finishing with drinks and nibbles on sunset ridge. After sunset we will head back to camp for dinner and refreshments by the fire. Bendleby has well maintained and serviced campgrounds, hot showers, flushing toilets and plenty of space for the kids to stretch their legs.

### **Day 3. 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.

Wake up to the smell of bacon and eggs, there is plenty of time today no rush. Today you will have options, if you are up for it there is plenty of moderate to hard to extreme 4WDing. Taking a packed lunch you can follow us through the abundant tracks in the Hungry Ranges including Billy Goat Ridge. If this isn't your cup of tea or if you are worried about your vehicle you may want to jump in with one of us, or you are more than welcome to take on one of the bush walks or just chill around camp. At the end of the day we will all be able to sit around the fire to eat dinner and discuss the day.

### **Day 4. Bendleby Ranges to Willow Springs.**

Today will be a big day, after breakfast and packing up camp we will leave Bendleby and take the back way to Craddock, here you will have time to check out the Big Hat and the famous Craddock Hotel. We will then head to Wilpena Pound via Hawker this will be the last fuel stop for some time, so please fuel up your vehicle, spare jerry cans and grab any extra supplies you might want for the next couple of days. Once we

arrive at Wilpena 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 drive to and explore Sacred Canyon, this is again an easy walk with many interesting sites. Once we have explored the canyon we will continue on to one last look out, this one is a short drive up to an exceptional overview of the pound. Our last stop for the day will be Willow Springs, a very short drive from the look out to our camp. Here we will set up camp for 2 nights.

#### **Day 5. 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 6. Willow Springs to Blinman.**

After breakfast and pack up of camp we will leave Willow Springs and head to the township of Blinman, along the way we will stop in at some old miner's huts, ruins and spectacular gorges.

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. The town is close to Brachina Gorge and Parachilna Gorge. These two rarely have flowing water in them. Also nearby are the Blinman Pools. The town is a stop off on the way to Arkaroola. The copper mine at one end of the town is another attraction and has self guided tours. The town itself boasts a pub, general store, a church and a cafe/gallery. There are tennis courts, a golf course and a cricket pitch, though they see sporadic use. There is no fuel available in Blinman. After a full day of exploring, we will finish the day with a rustic meal at the Blinman Hotel, maybe even have a beer or two of the local ale. Camp will be behind the pub or in a nearby gorge.

#### **Day 7. 7 day tour Blinman to home.**

The last day of tour, up at a decent time for breakfast, pack up camp and take the scenic drive from Blinman to Parachilna. At Parachilna you can check out the art and local sculptures and the famous Prairie Hotel Parachilna (as sung by John Williamson). We will then travel south to Hawker where we can fuel up and say our goodbyes before making our way home.

#### **Day 7. 9 day tour Blinman to Arkaroola**

Up and at it, breakfast and pack up. Let's get on the windy dusty road to Arkaroola. We will make a few stops along the way at interesting Gorges, old grave sites and caves until we arrive at Arkaroola Village. We will book in and make camp, before using the afternoon to wander the amazing scenery this station has to offer. Options to check out are The Needles, The radioactive Paralana Hot Springs (no swimming or drinking) or Wheal Turner Mine. There are facilities and fuel here if required.

## **Day 8. 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. 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.

## **Day 9. Arkaroola to home.**

The last day of tour, up at a decent time for breakfast, pack up camp and take the scenic drive from Arkaroola to Lyndhurst (time permitting and the groups choice we can quickly duck out to the Orche pits just North of Lyndhurst for a look). We will then follow The Outback Highway south to Parachilna where you can check out the art and local sculptures and the famous Prairie Hotel Parachilna (as sung by John Williamson). We will then travel south to Hawker where we can fuel up and say our goodbyes before making our way home.

### **Some meal possibilities (not available every day) – GF options available**

#### **Breakfast menu**

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

#### **Lunch menu**

Fresh Cooked Damper/Scones/Bacon and cheese loaf  
Hot dogs  
Chicken Schnitzel or Roast meat rolls  
Pies/Sausage rolls/sausage rolls/mini pizzas  
Various sandwich options (rolls, Salada's, wraps)  
Nachos

#### **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  
Butter Chicken/Honey Mustard chicken and rice (or similar)  
Dinner provided at specified pubs/restaurants (\$35 per head limit)  
Desserts in camp oven, Dumplings, Damper, Cookies, Brownie