



Flinders Ranges SA

12 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 Orroroo SA at 12 noon at the front of the Gumtree Café, please be fuelled up on arrival. Grab a coffee and head off to our first destination Bendleby Ranges. There is a supermarket here for last minute supplies if required and you may also want to check out The Big Gum Tree.

Day 1. Orrorro to Bendleby Ranges.

After a quick meet and greet we will head out on the dirt road to travel approx. 50kms to Bendleby Ranges and our first camp location for the tour. After setting up your camp we will head out onto some of Bendleby's easier tracks for you to get a feel for the country and terrain.

After a few of hours of 4WDing and exploring this working sheep station and its' fantastic 4WD track it will be time to head up to Sunset Ridge to watch the first of many amazing sunsets over the next 2 weeks. On sunset ridge we will sit back and admire this stunning location with a delicious nibble platter and a drink to welcome you to our Flinders tour. After the setting sun is complete, we will head back to camp to have a warm meal around the fire and get to know each other.

Day 2. 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 driving the 4WD tracks from some easier lead in tracks right through to the famous Billy Goats Ridge Track (if possible), 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 for the day.

Day 3. Bendleby Ranges to Willow Springs.

Let's get the day started early, with breakfast on the run to help save some time. First stop for a coffee at the famous Craddock Hotel before topping up fuel at Hawker. From we will head up the Outback Highway before heading into one of the fabulous gorges and winding our way back down to Wilpena Pound. At Wilpena we will have some lunch before we do the Wangarra lookout walk via the old Hills Homestead, it's not a difficult walk but will take some time, so comfortable shoes, water and a snack is advised. After checking out the Wilpena Pound, 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 the next 2 nights.

Day 4. 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 meal, were we can sit back with full bellies around the fire and discuss the day's adventures.

Day 5. Willow Springs to Alpana Station.

Another brilliant morning with breakfast around the fire before we make the short drive north to Dingley Dell, this campground is set into the curve of the Oraparinna Creek with a dramatic cliff-face on the opposite side of the river red gum-lined creek, this area is the home of the Adnyamathanha people. Here we will meet Kristian from Wadna located in Blinman, and he will share some stories and a welcome to country with us. (Pending availability, if unavailable we will complete this at Wadna in the coming days). After our welcome we will make our way to Alpana Station and set up camp for the next 2 nights.

Day 6. Alpana Station/Blinman Township.

Over the course of day 5 and day 6 we will gain an extensive knowledge of the local area from both Sally at Alpana, Kristian at Wadna and or guides at Blinman. Each will be able to share some amazing insights into Blinman and the Flinders Ranges. We will complete a Blinman Pools tour, an underground mine tour, wander the Blinman Township and cemetery and visit Kristian and Gabbie at Wadna were you will be able to inspect and purchase some locally made gifts. On one of these evening we will again have the privilege of watching another stunning sunset on a ridge before making our way back down to camp to sit around the fire and share some more laughs.

Day 7. Alpana Station to Warrawenna Conservation Park.

Today will be an easy day, after breakfast and packing up camp we will leave Alpana Station, heading along the Parachilna Gorge before we deviate and take The Old Copper Track north towards Warrawenna Conservation Park. 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. On arriving at Warrawenna and finding our camp there will be time for some exploring by foot of the area while we get our dinner ready and campfire warm.

Day 8. 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 spectacular look out at Mt Gill, the views from this look out are breathtaking, 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 with hill climbs and descents along the way. 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 9. Warrawenna Conservation Park to Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary.

Waking up to such a remote and amazing location, you can't beat it. Breakfast and pack up before we head off to the nearby historic township of Beltana, here we will have some time to walk around the old town and have some morning tea. After morning tea we will head out to Leigh Creek, here we can refuel and gather supplies at the local IGA. Once fuelled up it's a very short drive up to Copley, lunch at the Copley Bush Bakery & Quandong Cafe, here you can grab a cuppa, try one of the famous pies and even one of the delicious Quandong tarts. With full bellies we will fill the day in with our drive out along the Nepabunna-Copley Rd turning at 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 enjoy another night by the fire.

Day 10. Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary.

Today will be spent driving around this spectacular and remote 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. The driving will take us through stunning gorges and has some fairly easy and then quite difficult 4Wding. 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 Bararranna 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. After the day is done we can enjoy an encounter with the rare Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby and then take a trip through the cosmos with Arkaroola's Astronomical experiences provide you with a rare opportunity to tour the universe, Under the Stars.

Day 11. Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary to Moro Gorge Campground.

Rise and shine for breakfast, we pack up camp to make our way to Moro Gorge campground via the Nepabunna-Copley Rd. On this road we will pass through Italowie Gorge before turning into the Nantawarrina IPA. Once in Nantawarrina, we will trek out to Moro Gorge campground via some windy dusty tracks, stopping to check out some of the areas points of interest. When we arrive and set up at camp there will be time to 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 12. Moro Gorge Campground to Yunta.

Rise and shine for breakfast, we pack up camp for the last time. Today will be a fairly long day in the saddle. The drive out of Nantawarrina will wind its way along the tracks past old homesteads, mines and other historical marks. Once back onto the main roads we will stop in at Mt Chambers Gorge to view the landscape and local rock art, possibly some morning tea or early lunch here.

After we have wandered around the area it's time to make our way to Yunta, passing Lake Frome along the way. Afternoon tea on one of the many look outs to take in the remoteness one final time. One last stop before we hit Yunta will be the old hotel and mine ruins at Waukaringa, so much to take in here. From Waukaringa, it's a short drive to our final destination and all being well a room with a bed at the Yunta Hotel. Time to have a good wash, put on the fancy clothes and have a good old fashioned pub meal, some ale and more stories of the trip and plenty of laughs. In the morning a continental breakfast is supplied with the room, we will say our goodbyes and everyone will head there separate way.

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

Breakfast menu

Bacon & Eggs
Pancakes or French toast
Toast/Raisin toast/crumpets
Toasties (Jaffles)
Cereal (limited selections)
Fruit (when available/limited selections)
Croissants (Ham/cheese)
Baked Beans/Spaghetti

Occasional morning tea options when available

Fresh Cooked Damper/Scones/Banana Bread/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 – various options
Savoury mince
Stirfry/crispy meat and vegetables
Tacos/Burritos/Fajitas (Mexican night)
Butter Chicken/Honey Mustard chicken and rice (or similar)
Dinner provided at specified pubs/restaurants (\$50 per head limit)

Desserts from - Damper, Cookies, Brownie, Dumplings, Pudding, Rice Pudding