



Simpson Desert – 13 Night Tag-Along Adventure Tour

PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary is just a guide. It is subject to change due to weather, road conditions, break downs, and other conditions out of our control. Please allow flexibility in the tour.

Pre-tour Option,

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 (and at request behind the pub). If you are able to fuel up your vehicle and jerry cans today, fuel station is across the road from the pub.

Please Note: The pre-tour option mention above is not included as part of the tour price. Accommodation and meal expenses are not covered by The Offroad Tradies.

Day 1.

Meet at the vacant block across from the fuel station on the Barrier Highway at 7.45am, ready to depart at 8.00am CST. Heading north up the Arkaroola Rd on dirt roads/tracks checking out some old ruins and look outs along the way. Making our way via Martins Well, around the back of Wilpena Pound to the small historic town of Blinman (the highest town in South Australia), for a refreshment and a quick look around. While in Blinman we will take a Historic underground mine tour or if time permits a “Welcome to Country” with Kristian at Wadna. After these activities we will then find our camp spot amongst the gum trees in Parachilna Gorge, here we will have dinner by the fire and chat about the days ahead.

Day 2.

Leave camp at Parachilna Gorge and pick up a couple of local points of interest (time permitting) before stopping at Leigh Creek/Copley for fuel and supplies if needed, The Copley Quandong Cafe had a fantastic range of pies homemade pies and pastries. We will stop at the Ochre pits (Indigenous site) just out of Lyndhurst (fuel available) for a look. Lunch stop will be at Farina (underground bakery if open) and self guided tour of the town and its ruins. Possible stops for tourist attractions along the way. Through to Marree for next nights camp, at the back of the pub. Tonight will be one of our pub meals and a chance for a wash. There are cabins/rooms etc available here which we can book for you if required (additional costs).

Day 3.

It will be an early morning for those that have chosen to take the scenic flight of Lake Eyre and surrounding regions. For those that are staying behind we will have breakfast and go for a drive around the area, including the Witchelina Nature Reserve. When the flight arrives back in town we will head off on our way towards Coward Springs. Depending on the return time from flights and driving conditions, we will try to make Coward Springs camping area, if not we will find a remote roadside stop for the night. Depending on time we will be stopping to learn about the history of The Bubbler and Blanche Cup and Coward Springs go for a dip in the famous spa.

Day 4.

Depending on distance covered yesterday it could be a bit of a drive today, we will make our way to William Creek firstly, along the way stopping for some amazing views at the southern edge of Lake Eyre. Fuel and food are available at the William Creek Hotel. From William Creek we will continue along the dusty Oodnadatta track, stopping at Algebuckina Bridge to admire the amazing workmanship of the rail bridge. From here it's a short drive into Oodnadatta, stopping for food, supplies, fuel, stretch the legs, kids can have a play at the park, have your photo at the Pink Roadhouse. We will have a bit of a drive to camp for the night, camping beside the Eringa Waterhole.

Day 5.

Breakfast by the waterhole before finishing the usually bumpy drive to Mt Dare, where we will top up fuel and supplies here, maybe a coffee or refreshment and a photo or two. From Mt Dare, the next stop is Dalhousie Springs, firstly to check out the old farm/station ruins and then onto set up camp and have a swim in the famous hot springs. Bring your winter woollies, there are no fires here so it will be a cold night. Nothing a warm meal and the amazing warm waters of the springs can't fix.

Day 6.

Why not start the day off with a warm dip in the springs, the mist above the warm water on a cold morning makes for a great experience and photo. We will have breakfast ready when you get back. Then pack up camp and start on the red sand tracks. Morning tea will be at Purnie Bore (last toilet), before travelling the French Line through the dunes and countryside for the day. Find a good spot and set up camp. Enjoy a delicious meal and warm fire and admire the millions of stars.

Day 7.

Up and have breakfast, pack up camp and start on the tracks, travel the French Line to Erabena Track and follow that down to the Lone Gum Tree. Continue through the dunes and countryside for the day. Find a good spot and set up camp. Enjoy a delicious meal and warm fire and admire the millions of stars.

Day 8.

Up and breakfast, get on the tracks, travel along Knolls Track to check out Approdinna Attora Knolls, from there we will get back on the French Line and continue on to Poeppel Corner (photo time). We will find and set up camp near here. Enjoy a hearty bush meal and admire the stars as we sit around the fire and chat about the trip and other life stories.

Day 9.

Get up and enjoy another breakfast in the desert, pack up camp and make our way to the QAA which we will follow to Big Red (the last challenge of the desert crossing). After some fun attempting to get up Big Red, we can choose to make camp and watch the sunset with some nibbles and beverages. Or option 2 will be watch the sunset and then head into Birdsville and set up camp (this option will give you 2 nights around Birdsville), this can be discussed on the day.

Day 10.

No need to rush this morning, we have the whole day to check out the local sites of Birdsville including Burke & Wills Tree, the Famous race track, have a fish in the Diamantina River and lunch at the Birdsville Bakery (maybe have a famous camel pie for lunch). The day would not be complete without dinner at the Birdsville Hotel. If possible please use this day to top up on fuel and supplies; we will need to leave on time tomorrow. We will be camped at the Birdsville caravan park, beside the river.

Day 11.

Up for breakfast, pack up and leave camp, we will take the Birdsville Development Road past the Dreamtime Serpent to Betoota, the town with a population of 0, but has a race course and pub. We will then meander our way across the outback to Haddon corner (South Australia and Queensland corner) to have some lunch. After lunch we will take the Arrabury Rd heading to towards Innaminka, with our camp for the night at The Burke & Will's Dig Tree camping area. This spot on the river is quite amazing and full of history. Dinner by a warm fire with an amazing view to finish off a great day.

Day 12.

Leave camp at The Dig Tree and head into Innaminka (fuel, supplies and showers available before we leave). In Innaminka we will check out as many of the local Burke & Wills points of interest as we can, we will follow the Old Strzelecki Track to Merty Merty and onto the Merty Merty-Cameron Corner Rd through to Cameron Corner (other routes used depending on conditions). Here you will have time to get your photo at the corner and have a cool drink at the pub, before setting up camp for the night in the grounds behind the pub. There are toilets and showers here to wash off the dust of the days driving.

Day 13.

After breakfast and pack up we will take the Middle Rd through Sturt National Park (the back way) to Tibooburra, stopping at a few attractions (Olive Downs and The Jump Ups). When we arrive at Tibooburra there will be time to have a look around town, the Museum, the old Gold mine self tour, fuel up and have a bite to eat. From Tibooburra we will head south to Milparinka to have a look around this historic old mining town. We will head out to Poole's grave and Sturt's cairn, a short drive out of the way, but well worth it. Here we will either find camp remotely or head back to the camping area at Milparinka for the night.

Day 14.

Last day of the tour, after breakfast and pack up, our last stop along the way is the famous Packsaddle Hotel, a must do if you are travelling the area. From here we make the last section of the tour to Broken Hill. This is the final stop of the tour.

If you do not want to continue on with your own adventures there are plenty of accommodation options for you. Camp at one of the caravan parks or you are welcome to camp at our accommodation property in Broken Hill, there is plenty of room to set up or camp inside. There are also many motel and pub accommodation facilities and things to see and do in Broken Hill.

Meals rolling options (not available every day) – GF options available

Breakfast menu

Bacon & Eggs
French Toast/Pancakes
Toast/Toasties (Jaffles)
Cereal (limited selections)
Fruit (when available/limited selections)
Croissants (Ham & Cheese or Nutella)
Banana Bread/Raisin Toast

Lunch menu

Fresh Cooked Damper/Scones/Cheese & Bacon Bread
Various sandwich options (wraps, rolls or salada options)
Hot dogs
Chicken Schnitzel rolls
Pies/pasties/sausage rolls/mini pizzas
Nachos
Roast/pulled meat rolls

Dinner menu

BBQ meat and salads (snags/chops/chicken skewers/steak/ribs, options to pick)
Souvlaki/kebabs
Roast/Stew in camp oven
Spaghetti or savoury mince
Butter Chicken and rice (or similar)
Various Curried meals
Homemade Hamburgers
Baked Potatoes
Tacos/Burritos (Mexican night)
Stir fry meat and vegetables
4 dinners provided at pub/restaurants TBA (\$50 limit)

Desserts/Treats

Golden Syrup Dumplings
Rice pudding
Outback doughnuts

Back up plans for the kids

Sausages and salad
Nuggets and potato gems
2 minute noodles/Quick pastas/cheesy mac
Toasties