



Simpson Desert – 11 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 Hawker SA the evening before the tour. We can have dinner together at the Hawker Hotel Motel, 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 that will make things easier in the morning. There are 2 fuel stations in Hawker.

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 carpark across from Flinders Food Co, Elder Terrace at 8.15am, ready to depart at 8.30am CST. Heading north up the Outback Highway.

We will slowly meander our way up to Marree today, picking up a few local points of interest (time permitting) along the way. The Prairie Hotel Parachilna, Leigh Creek and of course, The Copley Quandong Cafe which has 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. Then driving on through to Marree for tonight's camp, at the back of the pub or caravan park pending space availability. 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 2.

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 3/4.

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 watch the sunset with some nibbles and beverages. Then head into Birdsville and set up camp. Alternatively we can head straight into Birdsville to clean up and rest before going out for dinner at the hotel.

Day 10.

No need to rush this morning, we have most of the 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). During the day please fuel up and grab any supplies from the petrol station. In the early afternoon we will leave Birdsville and make our way east on the Birdsville Development Road past the Dreamtime Serpent to the town with a population of "0", Betoota, this will be tonight's camp location and a chance to have a beverage in the famous old pub.

Day 11.

Up for breakfast, pack up and leave camp, we will continue east on the Birdsville Development Road travelling through some classic outback Queensland towns such as Windorah, Quilpie and Cooladdi before arriving at our final destination Charleville.

At Charleville we will camp at the showgrounds or the Charleville Bush Caravan Park and enjoy what is outback Queensland hospitality. Dinner will be at The Hotel Corones is the most famous historic landmark in Charleville. It is one of the few masonry buildings built in the 1920s and represents the social and economic fabric of those prosperous and pioneering days. The hotel was the focal point for a bustling 1930s economy, welcoming many famous people, aviators and royal family, and represents a major part of the town's historic rise to prominence at that time.

You can also enjoy a tour, along the way your guide will tell tales of Harry Corones.

Day 12.

Possible a slow morning after our final night together, this will be our last breakfast together before we all head our own ways home.

Note.

Due to the nature of travelling and sightseeing as a group, timeframes and nightly camps may change during the course of the tour. We have many locations allocated for stops, with contingency plans.

We have also taken up the option through the Birdsville Hotel for a recovery package when travelling through the Simpson. This fee is included in your package price and means that if by chance you do need to be recovered from the Desert there will be no additional fees.

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/Crumpets/Muffins

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
Pasta - various
4 dinners provided at pub/restaurants TBA (\$50 limit)

Desserts/Treats

Golden Syrup Dumplings

Pudding
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
Rice
Pasta