



5 Day Flinders Ranges and Arkaroola Tour

Day 1 (L,D)

You will be collected from your Adelaide accommodation at 7am this morning for your 5 day 4WD tour to the Flinders Ranges and Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary.

We travel north, through the Clare Valley towards the Flinders Ranges, with a couple of stops en-route, including Hawker, the hub of the Flinders Ranges and a thriving railway town until the line was relocated west in 1956.

Just south of Hawker we'll visit the Kanyaka Ruins. The ruined farmhouse is all that remains of a farmers dream to provide for his family in this unforgiving landscape. It's a harsh reminder of the hardships the first European settlers endured.

After stopping at one of the lookouts en-route, we continue into the Central Flinders Ranges, known for their unique beauty, indigenous history, ancient geological formations, rich colours and textures and abundant wildlife. Home to a huge array of plant species, birds, reptiles and mammals, the vibrant colours of the 800 million-year-old quartzite and limestone outcrop that is the Flinders, are truly spectacular.

We finish the day at Sacred Canyon, a small chasm where sandstone walls with ancient Adnyamathanha Aboriginal rock engravings can be found. A short and pleasant walk along a dry creek bed lined with majestic river red gums leads us to the canyon.

Overnight accommodation- Wilpena Pound Resort- standard room with en-suite

Day 2 (B,L,D)

This morning we drive to the historic mining town of Blinman, which had a working copper mine between the years of 1862 and 1907. Here you'll take a 1 hour tour of the mine, transporting you back in time, to the lives of the miners and their families during the second half of the 19th century.

After the mine tour we drive west through the spectacular Parachilna Gorge. This is a slow drive, with changing scenery and several creek crossings and is considered to be one of the most scenic in Outback SA !

Heading north now, we drive through the Gammon Ranges, to Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary. The privately owned sanctuary was founded in 1969 by Reg Sprigg, Biologist, Oceanographer, Conservationist, scientist and pioneer of eco-tourism.

Many minerals are found on Arkaroola, including gold, sapphires, rubies, amethyst, several forms of quartz, uraninite and malachite (among others) and evidence of early mining is scattered about Arkaroola and the Gammon Ranges.

Arkaroola is also famous for it's clear night skies and offers some of the best viewing conditions in Australia.

Overnight accommodation- motel room with en-suite, Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary (2 night stay)

Day 3 (B,L,D)

This morning we take a drive through the sanctuary including the historic Bolla Bollana Waterhole, Nooldoonooldoona Waterhole and the amazing Pinnacles which are an outstanding feature of the Mawson Valley.

After lunch, you'll take the famous Ridgetop tour, through some of the most spectacularly rugged country on earth. Your Arkaroola guide will share their knowledge of Arkaroola's 1600-million year geological history as they navigate the steep slopes and hair raising ascents of the famous Ridgetop Track.

Inspiring images of red granite mountains and golden spinifex covered hillsides give way to a breath-taking view across the Freeling Heights, Lake Frome and the desert beyond.

Take in the 360-degree panorama as you enjoy morning tea at Sillers Lookout - a lofty pinnacle at the end of the Track.

Overnight accommodation- motel room with en-suite, Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary

Day 4 (B,L,D)

We travel south again this morning, back into the Central Flinders Ranges. En-route we stop at Parachilna, a tiny township with a population in single digits ! It's a favourite among film makers thanks to the beautiful landscape. The road from Beltana to Parachilna runs beside the old railway line, with many remnants of old railway stations, bridges across creeks and straight stretches where the railway used to run.

Then we drive the Brachina Gorge Geological Trail, a trail that passes through 130 million years of earth history, including meteorite debris, stromatolites and fossilized plant and animal life. It offers an insight into past climates, the formation of the ranges and the evolution of early forms of life. It's also an important refuge for the rare and endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. This leads to Bunyeroo Gorge and Razorback Lookout, where we stop for a fantastic photo opportunity.

Overnight accommodation- Wilpena Pound Resort- standard room with en-suite

Day 5 (B,L)

This morning you have the option of taking a walk into Wilpena Pound or take a scenic flight (at own expense). Walk along the beautiful Wilpena Creek, framed by huge river red gums, into Wilpena Pound and on to the Old Hills Homestead where you can learn about the hardships the Hills family had to face at the turn of the century. You also have the option of walking up to the Wangara lookout where you can see the mystical heart of the Ikara- Flinders Ranges with stunning views over Wilpena Pound. There is a shuttle available to shorten the walk.

Departing Wilpena, we continue to historic Quorn for lunch and then make our final run into Adelaide, via the highway.

We arrive in Adelaide at approximately 6pm and you will be dropped off at your accommodation.

END OF TOUR

B= Breakfast L= Lunch D= Dinner

Departs Adelaide in 2019 on demand, in spring / summer between Oct- April, with a minimum of 4 people

Oct 2019- April 2020 :

AUD \$2915 per adult, twin share.

\$2715 child (aged 8 -15 years), twin share.

\$3300 per person, single room.

****solo travellers must have single room****

Maximum 10 passengers

Prices include GST

Inclusions:

- Seat in 4WD vehicle, with professional driver guide & purpose built heavy duty trailer
- All Meals as stated, including 4 restaurant breakfasts and 4 restaurant dinners
- Accommodation, as listed
- Ridgetop Tour at Arkaroola
- Blinman Mine tour
- Entry fees and permits

Exclusions:

- Arrival/departure flights

- Pre & Post tour accommodation
- Travel Insurance
- Alcohol
- Any optional activities such as Wilpena Pound scenic flight (Please request flight when booking, to avoid disappointment).

Itinerary is exclusive to Sacred Earth Safaris and subject to availability, road, weather and cultural conditions.