

Travel West Air Safari

to Central Australia & the Kimberley

12 -20 May 2012

This is going to be a trip of a lifetime.

Join Graham & Deb from Travel West on this 9 day-8 night journey from Brisbane to Kununurra, with overnight motel accommodation in Longreach, Birdsville, Coober Pedy, Ayers Rock Resort & Alice Springs and 3 nights at Kununurra, in the heart of the Kimberley. Graham will entertain you all the way with history, geography and stories about driving road trains & carting cattle in the Kimberley and the Territory.

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#### Saturday 12 May

8am – Meet Graham & Deb from Travel West at the Brisbane Jet Base to check in for your adventure and enjoy a chicken & champagne breakfast. Following breakfast, we will board our Saab 340 plane and head west/north west, flying low over the Carnarvon Ranges heading for Longreach. Upon arrival Longreach, we will be transferred to the Cattlemen's Bar & Grill for lunch and then visit the Stockman's Hall of Fame to step back in time to see how the drovers of yester year worked the cattle and sheep. This evening we will watch the sunset whilst cruising the Thomson River followed by dinner on the banks of the river.

**Accommodation:** Longreach Motor Inn x 1 night

**(07) 4658 2322**

#### Sunday 13 May

After a leisurely breakfast in the restaurant, we'll tour the town of Longreach finishing at the Qantas Founders Museum where we will have time to look through the museum before lunch. This afternoon we will board our plane and head to Birdsville.

Upon arrival in Birdsville it is just a short walk across the road to our accommodation. The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy, perhaps a short walk to the Visitor Information Centre and around this small country town. Join Graham & Deb on the western verandah as the sun sets over the Simpson Desert. Dinner in the Birdsville Hotel's award winning dining room.

**Accommodation:** Birdsville Hotel/Motel x 1 night

**(07) 4656 3244**

#### Monday 14 May

Enjoy a buffet breakfast before we make our way to our plane and head south following the Birdsville Track then over Goyder Lagoon, across part of the Simpson Desert and then descending over Lake Eyre for a look at this wonderful spectacle nature has provided us. See if we can spot the wreckage of a plane that crashed there in 1990. Crossing over the Oodnadatta Track we are heading for Coober Pedy. We will settle into our motel and have lunch before a tour of this fascinating 'opal' town, including The Breakaways.

**Accommodation:** Desert Cave Hotel x 1 night

**(08) 8672 5688**

## **Tuesday 15 May**

Leaving Coober Pedy we leave South Australia and as we enter the Northern Territory we will see Mt Connor, Ayers Rock and the Olgas. Upon our arrival at Ayers Rock Airport we will be transferred to the Ayers Rock Resort for lunch and some time at leisure. This evening is one of the highlights of the trip - the 'Sounds of Silence' dinner. You will be amazed at this evening's entertainment.

**Accommodation: Desert Gardens Resort x 1 night (08) 8957 7714**

## **Wednesday 16 May**

After breakfast we take a tour of Ayers Rock. This is one of the most iconic attractions in Australia. Departing Central Australia we will fly across the Northern Territory and into Western Australia, with the Great Sandy Desert on the left and the Tanami Desert on the right hand side. As we prepare to land in Kununurra you will be amazed at the farming going on near town. Upon arrival we will be met and taken for lunch and then on a town tour terminating at our hotel. You will then have some free time to wander in town.

**Accommodation: Kununurra Country Club Resort x 3 nights (08) 9168 1024**

## **Thursday 17 May**

Today will be a highlight of our safari! Departing Kununurra we will fly south over an icon of the Kimberley - the Bungle Bungles before heading to see the "Horizontal Falls". The waterfall phenomena has been described by David Attenborough as "one of the greatest natural wonders of the world". Our day will continue with flying low over the "thousand island" Buccaneer Archipelago towards Cape Leveque before turning south to Broome. Upon arrival Broome we will go straight to lunch before a town tour with Broome "Top Deck" Tours. You will then have some free time to wander the streets before we transfer to Cable Beach. Once here, you can stroll along famous Cable Beach or sit and wait for sunset. Dinner will be at Cable Beach before we fly back to Kununurra and a good night's sleep.

## **Friday 18 May**

After a leisurely start, we will be picked up and taken to our cruise up the Ord River which will include lunch at a secret location along the river. Once we arrive at Lake Argyle we'll board a tour bus to visit the historic Duracks homestead and view part of Lake Argyle from a scenic lookout. Relax as we return back down the Ord to the Pumphouse Restaurant & Bar for this evening's dinner.

## **Saturday 19 May**

Today we will be leaving Kununurra with a scenic low level flight over Lake Argyle for a bird's eye view of this huge lake. Flying over the Tanami Desert, Graham will have some stories to share with you about trips carting cattle from Stuart Creek Station to Alice Springs down the Tanami Track. Landing in Alice Springs we will transfer to the National Road Transport Museum for lunch and a good look around this great community-based volunteer organisation dedicated to the preservation of Australia's unique road transport heritage.

**Accommodation: Chifley Hotel Alice Springs x 1 night (08) 8951 4545**

## **Sunday 20 May**

Leaving 'the Alice' we fly over the Simpson Desert dropping back into the famous Birdsville Hotel for lunch. Leaving Birdsville we pass the largest lake in Queensland, fly over the Channel Country of Cooper Creek, the Bulloo, Paroo and Warrego Rivers landing in Charleville to refuel.

All aboard for our last sector flying into Brisbane where we will bid you all farewell as you think about you next adventure.

Arrive Brisbane approximately 5pm.