



# Desert Sky Tours Personalised Tours 2019



## 7 days Coongie Lakes and Cooper's Creek

### Day 1

After home pick-up around 7.30am, we travel through the mid north towns of Tarlee, Rhynie and Auburn to the Clare Valley. At Clare, there is opportunity to visit Seven Hills Cellars - the oldest existing winery in the Clare Valley.

After morning tea, we continue the tour in to the heart of the Flinders Ranges through vast sheep station country including the Pastoral Districts of Melrose, Wilmington and Quorn. The Kanyaka ruins and cemetery are a reminder of the once huge sheep run in the pioneering era.

We have a short stop at Hawker, the "Gateway to the Flinders" then continue through to Parachilna and Leigh Creek to our overnight stop at Copley.

Accommodation: Leigh Creek Hotel Copley

### Day 2

We travel to Lyndhurst, and the start of the legendary Strzelecki Track ~(named by Capt. Charles Sturt, and pioneered by bushman Harry Redford, ("Captain Starlight") who brought stolen cattle from Queensland to South Australia in 1871.

The Track passes through the Cobbler Desert, and Montecollina Bore (lunch), to Merty Merty, then via the old Strzelecki stock route (or alternatively Moomba – depending on road conditions), to meet the Cooper floodplain and the township of Innamincka.

Accommodation Cooper Creek Homestay Innamincka

### Day 3

After a cooked breakfast, we cross the causeway at Innamincka and take the 110km Coongie Lakes Track which closely follows the north arm of Cooper Creek, and skirts treeless grey clay pans, floodplains and dunes. At 80kms from Innamincka is the Kudriemitchie Outstation – once used to accommodate mustering parties working from the main homestead at Innamincka. The building has been renovated and is an ideal stop for morning tea.

Coongie Lakes is a remarkable semi-permanent lake system on the north-west branch of lower Cooper's Creek. The system has high ecological values, supports a huge number of water birds, and is a major raptor breeding area. It has been listed under the RAMSAR Convention in recognition of its international significance for migratory and nomadic birds.

After a picnic lunch and time to explore the Lake area , we return to Innamincka. This is a full day excursion.

Accommodation: Cooper Creek Homestay Innamincka

## Day 4

Today is spent exploring the historic Burke and Wills area, and we visit Camp LXV, the “Dig Tree”, King’s marker and Burke’s memorial on the banks of the Mulkonbar Waterhole. There is opportunity to enjoy a walk along the banks of the Cooper Creek and view the abundant wildlife. The Elizabeth Symons Nursing Home (Built in 1929) has been restored as an interpretive centre for the area.

Accommodation: Cooper Creek Homestay Innamincka

## Day 5

We head south along the old Strzelecki track to Merty Merty Junction.

At this point we head east to Cameron Corner, which is on the border of South Australia and New South Wales. A little further, we come upon Fort Grey in the Sturt National Park, and we take the “Middle Road” through the Park to Tibooburra.

Accommodation: Granites Motel Tibooburra

## Day 6

After exploring Milparinka- (a ghost town of the mining era), we take a track out to Depot Glen, where Capt Charles Sturt was stranded for 5 months of the year due to extreme temperatures, and visit the grave of his Second In Command (James Poole) who died of scurvy. We then travel the Silver City Highway through Packsaddle and Fowlers Gap to Broken Hill, arriving mid afternoon.

There is opportunity for some sightseeing in Broken Hill.

Accommodation: Silver Haven Motel Broken Hill

## Day 7

Leaving Broken Hill, we travel approximately 100kms south along the Silver City Highway then take the “Eastern Road” through the Stations of Harriedale, Loch Lilly, Oakvale and Quandong to Burra and Adelaide.

### Tour Includes:

- Seven days fully escorted 4WD Outback touring
- All morning and afternoon teas
- All Lunches
- All evening meals
- Accommodation as described in the itinerary
- All park entry fees and permits
- Complimentary home pick-up in metropolitan area.



Per person twin share : \$3150 all inclusive

Single Supplement : \$300

Departure Date: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019

