Away for the Winter

Including the Red Centre

Tour Length: 23 Days

Tour Departs: 09 July 2027

We are delighted to again present this unique Australian tour in 2027. Australia is a ‘big country’ but no other region portrays the vastness, the variety and the beauty of the country more so than the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia. It is a land of spectacular contrasts, incredible mountain ranges, waterways teeming with wildlife and waterfalls cascading over towering escarpments. Enjoy river, lake and harbour cruises, breath-taking scenery of the superb flora and fauna. You will experience warm, blue-sky days and mild evenings. The contrast of the outback to the Indian Ocean make the regions a ‘must see’. The tour itinerary will ensure you have an unbelievably “beaut” Australian holiday. The tour has operated so successfully in its current format for a number of years now but each year we still make little changes to further enhance the total experience. There will be many daily highlights in your travels and let’s not forget the delightful towns and cities such as Alice Springs, Darwin and Broome.

Highlights

- Ayers Rock
- Alice Springs
- Tennant Creek and the Outback Pub
- Mataranka Thermal Springs
- Kakadu National Park - Yellow Water billabong cruise
- Darwin
- Katherine Gorge and Lake Argyle
- Broome

Tour Costs Per Person

Per Person Share Twin/Double Room

$20,650

Per Person Single Room

$26,550

Tour Costs

Inclusions

- Economy Class air travel from Auckland
- Prepaid airport/government/airline/security charges and taxes
- Superior Grade hotel accommodation or best available in some towns.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary.
- First Class air conditioned coach transportation for all touring.
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary.
- Services of a driver/guide and local guides for touring and sightseeing.
- Baggage handling of one suitcase per person – where possible
- Gratuities and tips to local guides & coach drivers.
- Fully escorted by a Maher Tour Leader (subject to minimum numbers)

Exclusions

- Any meals and sightseeing tours not specifically mentioned in the itinerary.
- Travel Insurance (assistance and advice will be offered).
- Items of a personal nature such as room service, laundry, telephone charges etc.

Booking Conditions

- Initial Deposit due at time of booking:
  NZD$3,000 per person
- Second Deposit due Friday 8 January 2027
  NZD$3,000 per person
- Final Payment Balance
  Due Monday 10 May 2027

To register for this tour please contact us at 0800 500 518 or tours@mahertours.co.nz

Tour Itinerary

23 DAYS

Day 1 | Home – Sydney

FRIDAY 09 JULY

Today, tour members fly to Sydney. On arrival, we transfer to our Sydney Airport hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 2 | Sydney – Ayres Rock

SATURDAY 10 JULY (B,D)

This morning, we return to the airport and fly to Ayers Rock where we are met and transferred to our hotel for a 2-night stay; A leisurely afternoon to relax before we get together for dinner this evening.

Day 3 | Ayers Rock

SUNDAY 11 JULY (B,D)

Today, we tour the world famous monolith Uluru (Ayers Rock) which stands 348m high. This world heritage site combines natural wonders with Aboriginal culture. To the west of Uluru, we also visit Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), a massive pile of 36 weathered rock domes estimated to be as old as 500 million years. We have a special evening ahead; we will watch an unforgettable sunset at Uluru over drinks and canapes before we enjoy a buffet dinner under the sparkling outback sky.

Day 4 | Ayers Rock – Alice Springs

MONDAY 12 JULY (B,D)

Leaving Uluru, we travel through some of the most spectacular desert scenery the outback has to offer. You will be amazed at the sight of Mt Conner, often mistaken for Uluru. For the more adventurous, there is the opportunity for a camel ride at a camel farm. Look for the brilliant colours of the McDonnell Ranges as we approach Alice Springs. This afternoon, we visit Desert Park with its Nocturnal House and Nature theatre before arriving at our hotel for a 2 night stay.

Day 5 | Alice Springs

TUESDAY 13 JULY (B)

Lying in the heart of central Australia, this famous outback town is celebrated for both the natural beauty of the surrounding areas as much as for the extraordinary people who have shaped its history. Today, we tour the sights of “The Alice”. Highlights include the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical reserve, School of the Air and the Flying Doctor Service..

Day 6 | Alice Springs – Tennant Creek

WEDNESDAY 14 JULY (B,D)

We join the Stuart Highway for the journey north to Tennant Creek. Not to be missed, en route are the Devils Marbles, thought to be millions of years old, giant boulders strewn across the landscape, particularly beautiful around sunset. Tennant Creek is the hub of the Barkly Tablelands, a region of vast grassy plains and home to cattle stations the size of some countries.

Day 7 | Tennant Creek - Katherine

THURSDAY 15 JULY (B,L,D)

We continue our journey north through the Barkly Tablelands and its wide warm blue skies. A compulsory stop is at the outback Daly Waters Pub, made famous for its walls that have an amazing collection of memorabilia. Our 'shout' for lunch! We continue north to Mataranka Thermal Springs where the crystal clear water of the thermal pool is surrounded by lush, tropical forest (take your togs & a towel). Onward to Katherine, where we stay for two nights.

Day 8 | Katherine Show and Rodeo

FRIDAY 16 JULY (B,D)

The Katherine Show is the largest community event in Katherine. The Katherine Show boasts the best of the Katherine people's craft, cooking, photography and so much more. With free family entertainment and unique stalls open over Show weekend, it's a can't miss event!

Day 9 | Katherine - Kakadu

SATURDAY 17 JULY (B,L,D)

There is time this morning to visit Katherine Gorge where we enjoy a spectacular cruise. Marvel at the sheer colourful cliff walls while the guide explains the history and geology of the area. After lunch, we leave Katherine and head to Kakadu National Park, 20,000 square kilometres of spectacular scenery and brilliant wildlife. We enjoy a 2-night stay in Kakadu National Park.

Day 10 | Kakadu

SUNDAY 18 JULY (B,L,D)

We have a relaxing morning visiting the Warradjan Cultural Centre, the Nourlangie Rock and Jabiru. We will enjoy lunch before one of our tour highlights, the Yellow Water Billabong Cruise, where we see freshwater crocodiles and the prolific wildlife that abounds in the region. Our cruise quietly immerses us in the wonder and beauty of this wetland habitat.

Day 11 | Kakadu - Darwin

MONDAY 19 JULY (B,L)

This morning, we join the Guluyambi cruise along the spectacular East Alligator River that separates Kakadu from Arnhem Land. We learn about the mythology of this rich Aboriginal homeland and the river's abundant food chain, as well as the methods of hunting and gathering by the local Aboriginal people. We then view the Aboriginal rock art at Ubirr and after stopping for lunch, we continue on to Darwin for a 3 night stay.

Day 12 | Darwin

TUESDAY 20 JULY (B,D)

Darwin is the capital of the Northern Territory and home to a diverse population of over 100,000. Darwin's warm tropical climate and moderating sea breezes mean that an outdoor lifestyle can be enjoyed all year round. We enjoy a morning tour of the city and surroundings. In the evening we join a dinner cruise on the harbour which hopefully presents us with fantastic views of the fiery sunset over the Indian Ocean.

Day 13 | Darwin

WEDNESDAY 21 JULY (B)

A free day today. Suggestions – explore Darwin city at your own pace on the city 'hop on, hop off buses', or a gentle walk of Darwin's historical and cultural sights, or the delights of the botanic and orchid gardens. A must see is Aqua-scene, right in the heart of the city, where hundreds of fish arrive daily from the ocean at high tide to be fed by hand. Or maybe just spend some time relaxing by the hotel pool.

Day 14 | Darwin – Litchfield National Park - Katherine

THURSDAY 22 JULY (B,L,D)

We leave Darwin this morning and travel to the tranquil wilderness area of Litchfield National Park, with its picturesque waterfalls, plunge pools and unusual magnetic termite mounds. See beautiful Wangi and Florence Falls before continuing on to Katherine.

Day 15 | Katherine – Lake Argyle – Ord River - Kununurra

FRIDAY 23 JULY (B,L,D)

A great day – cross the border into Western Australia and journey into the ranges before arriving at Lake Argyle, which holds nearly 20 times more water than Sydney harbour. You will enjoy the exciting cruise on the Ord River to Kununurra – wonderful peaceful river scenery, followed by the colourful sunset on arrival at our accommodation.

Day 16 | Kununurra

SATURDAY 24 JULY (B,D)

We spend the day in Kununurra, with the option to either relax around the resort in the morning, or you may use this opportunity for an optional flight tour to the Bungle Bungles. This afternoon, we visit the Hoochery Rum Distillery for a tour, tasting and afternoon tea.

Day 17 | Kununurra – Halls Creek

SUNDAY 25 JULY (B,L,D)

We continue our travels onward to Halls Creek, the home of Western Australia's Gold Rush in the 1800's. We visit the fascinating rock formation of 'china wall' and the ghost town of Old Halls Creek, located 15kms from the current location of the town.

Day 18 | Halls Creek – Fitzroy Crossing

MONDAY 26 JULY (B,D)

We depart Halls Creek and travel to Fitzroy Crossing with a stop en-route at Marys Pool for a refreshment break. We arrive at our accommodation at Fitzroy Crossing, a small settlement that services the nearby stations and, as its name implies, the crossing point for the Fitzroy River.

Day 19 | Fitzroy Crossing - Broome

TUESDAY 27 JULY (B)

We visit Derby and see the massive Boab Prison Tree, used as a prison cell in the early days.
We then continue on to Broome, the Kimberley's most southerly town on the magnificent coastline, for a 3-night stay.

Day 20 | Broome

WEDNESDAY 28 JULY (B,D)

Broome is a town where the outback adjoins the tropical coastline. This morning, we tour the historic features of this former pearling capital. See Chinatown and Streeters Jetty, where pearlers once unloaded their harvest. A visit to Cable Beach to see the sun setting over the Indian Ocean is an unforgettable sight.

Day 21 | Broome

THURSDAY 29 JULY (B,D)

Experience the magic of Roebuck Bay as we enjoy a captivating dolphin tour early this morning. We will (hopefully!) see one of Australia's largest populations of elusive snubfin dolphins. This unique experience offers incredible opportunities to witness these playful creatures in their natural habitat. Spot snubfin dolphins or bottlenose dolphins socialising and having fun in the sun. If we are lucky, we may also catch a glimpse of the graceful manta rays or watch turtles bobbing their heads on the water. After our cruise, there is time at leisure before our afternoon activity. Departing the resort mid-afternoon, we experience "Wakaj - An Authentic Cultural Gathering Experience!". After a welcome from our cultural tour guides, we will be introduced into the Karajarri culture including a demonstration on how to traditionally cook the perfect damper. There'll be a camp-style billy with boiling water for your tea and coffee to go perfectly with the freshly made damper and locally harvested bush honey! Guides will then lead The Pintirri Dancers into a traditional dance performance, which is known as Maru. The Pintirri Dancers will take us into the sunset while the sounds of the traditional Karajarri songs echo through the surrounding bushlands. Returning to the resort early evening, there is time for a quick freshen up before we meet for dinner.

Day 22 | Broome - Melbourne

FRIDAY 30 JULY (B)

We bid farewell to Broome and depart on our mid-day flight to Melbourne. On arrival, we transfer to our Melbourne Airport hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 23 | Melbourne - Auckland

SATURDAY 31 JULY (B)

Back to the airport today in time for our flight back to Auckland for a mid afternoon arrival.

Away for the Winter

Including the Red Centre

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FULLY ACCREDITED

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To register for this tour please contact us at 0800 500 518 or tours@mahertours.co.nz