

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

AUSTRALIA

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



FIRST CHOICE 5-21 day Fully Curated Experiences **From page 26**

BEST BUYS 3-15 day Flexible Guided Holidays **From page 58**

Outback Safari

Highlights


Local Connection

Go behind the scenes with local guides (they know where to spot crocs) while cruising Kakadu's Yellow Water Billabong, or touring the School of the Air.

Cultural Immersion

Thirsty visitors have been leaving mementos on the walls of the Daly Waters Pub for 40+ years. Over a beer think about what you can contribute.

Sustainable Footprints

 Sleep soundly at Ayers Rock Resort knowing your stay is helping the Mutitjulu Foundation fund projects in health and education for Uluru's Aboriginal communities.

Wildlife & Nature

There's nothing quite like cooling off under a waterfall, particularly when it drops from ridges shrouded in rainforest that drapes Litchfield National Park.

1 Welcome to Uluru

Today is one of colours. The ochre soil spiked with cycads as you come into land. The endless blue sky. The russet hues of Uluru... And that's all before the enchanting hour. Come sunset, the landscape changes with every click of your camera. If you can stop snapping, have a glass of bubbles and some nibbles with your fellow adventurers. **Hotel: Desert Gardens, Ayers Rock Resort, 2 nights.**

2 Uluru Sunrise – Kata Tjuta

If you're looking for a reason to roll out of bed before dawn, make it an Uluru sunrise. Help protect the highlights of Australia's wilderness through your bucket list visit to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. On this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience you'll encounter the iconic Uluru, or 'The Rock,' half a billion years old, standing 348 meters high and taller than the Eiffel Tower. We're not saying it's better than the sunset. But rising with the birds certainly has benefits. Like being cool when you tour the base of the world's biggest monolith. A circumnavigation is 11 kilometres, if you're up for it. Or you can join a guided walk to Mutitjulu Waterhole, a sacred spot decorated with millennia-old Aboriginal rock paintings. Dive even deeper into First Nations traditions at the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre. Then wander through Kata Tjuta and Walpa Gorge, with more bubbles to serenade the day's end. **B**

3 Uluru – Kings Canyon

The only other reason to get up before dawn is to glimpse the Uluru Field of Light, a dazzling installation by British artist Bruce Munro that sees 50,000 stem-like globes blanket the Uluru soil. It's optional – we won't judge you for sleeping in, steeling yourself for today's adventures. Speaking of which, did you know Australia has the largest population of wild camels in the world, and Kings Creek Station, your next stop, is the largest exporter of these doe-eyed creatures? From here, the land eases into Kings Canyon, part of the immense Watarrka National Park. Views over the Red Centre are perspective-resetting. Feeling fit? - get your heart pumping on the 500 step climb on the 6km rim walk or take it easier on the creek bed walk... **Hotel: Kings Canyon Resort. B DW**

4 Kings Canyon – Alice Springs

Cattle stations are the size of small nations in the NT outback, as you'll discover on your journey toward Alice. The other 'big' thing in these parts is the MacDonnell Ranges, undulating across the red earth like a caterpillar's spine. Back in 1872, Alice Springs was a hive of activity, as a Telegraph Station built to connect Adelaide and Darwin as part of the Overland Telegraph Line. Sweat and tears went into the project, as you'll discover browsing the grounds. If you thought you were getting out of a sunset, think again – panoramas from Anzac Hill steal the scene. **Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton, 2 nights. B**

5 Alice Springs

Visit the Alice Springs Desert Park. It's home to a vast range of plants and wildlife native to the area. You can really appreciate the beauty and diversity of this incredible landscape. In remote parts of Australia, community is everything, whether to ensure stories of the Arrernte people are not forgotten, or to help those who need help. The passionate Royal Flying Doctor Service health workers commute hundreds of kilometres to provide aid. Their stories are at once uplifting and inspiring. End the day on a high at Earth Sanctuary World Nature Centre, where the Falzon family host a BBQ Be My Guest dinner under the stars. This is a lesson in off-the-grid, sustainable living. Let it inspire you to follow suit at home. **B BG**

6 Alice Springs – Tennant Creek

The whole of Peru covers 1.3 million square kilometres – the same size playing field that the School of the Air broadcasts daily classes to. Watch a live session with kids in some of Australia's most remote reaches, providing them with educational tools otherwise unavailable. Not on the curriculum? Undeniably otherworldly are the precariously balanced boulders that characterise Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles) and the landscapes surrounding gold-rich Tennant Creek. **Hotel: Bluestone Motor Inn. B DW**

7 Tennant Creek – Katherine

When you're not working hard in the Australian outback, you're having a lot of fun. Case in point the Daly Waters Historic Pub, where the food – schnitzels, burgers – comes second to the atmosphere. Follow the lead of



Mataranka Thermal Springs

11 DAYS
18 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2024	2024 continued
Apr 27	Jul 27
May 18	Aug 24
Jun 29	

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit aatkings.com/nuad or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

10 Full breakfasts **B** 4 Dinners with wine **DW**
1 Be My Guest dinner **BG** 1 Farewell Dinner **FD**

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 3.00pm into Ayers Rock Airport
Day 11 – flights to depart anytime from Darwin Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price.

Return airport to hotel transfers are included in the holiday price.

Upgrade

Start your tour in Adelaide. See Outback Adventure on page 30.

Add-ons

Ask us about pre-booking our exclusive **Uluru Barbecue dinner** as an add-on to Day 1. (Code: **BBQA**)

And Bruce Munro's **Uluru Sunrise & Field of Light** to Day 3. (Code: **FOL**).

those here before you and leave a memento to decorate the walls. If you were a fan of TV drama *We of the Never Never*, you'll recognise your next destination: the (replica) Elsey Homestead in Mataranka. Explore, or soak in the palm-shrouded thermal springs. **Hotel: Contour. B DW**

8 Katherine – Kakadu National Park

Explore the natural beauty of Nitmiluk National Park on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience riverboat cruise along Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge. You can almost feel the spirits yawning as they created this landscape on Jawoyn land, part of Nitmiluk National Park. A sprinkling of crocs, a flutter of rare birds. It takes your breath away. More wildlife lurks in Kakadu's Yellow Water Billabong, which is a mecca for sea eagles, brologas and little kingfishers. **Hotel: Mercure Kakadu Crocodile, Jabiru. B DW**

9 Kakadu – Darwin

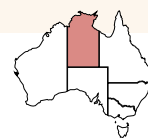
The best way to grasp the immensity of Kakadu and Arnhem Land? From the air, should you wish to take an optional flight. You won't regret it – perspective is always a good thing. Speaking of which, Ubirr's Aboriginal rock art dates back an eye-watering 20,000+ years. If it looks familiar, that's because it starred in classic Aussie movie, *Crocodile Dundee*. Get your Darwin bearings on a quick tour – we want to give you as much time as possible to enjoy a bite to eat at the Mindil Beach Sunset Market. **Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn, 2 nights. B**

10 Litchfield National Park

Think of today as dessert: the sweet finale to a decadent degustation. Travel deep into Litchfield National Park, pocked with 100-year-old, two-metre-high magnetic termite mounds. We're not sticking around though – Florence and Wangi falls await. Change into your swimming costume and take a dip in the gem-like waterholes. Darwin can get steamy, but you'll have wind in your sails as you cruise the harbour at sunset, enjoying one last toast to the NT. **B FD**

11 Farewell from Darwin

'Ma Muk' ('See you later'), as the Larrakia people would say. This Dreamtime adventure is over for now, but we're positive your memories will last forever. **B**



- **START**
- **END**
- ① Number of night stays
- Sightseeing stops

