

SOUTH AUSTRALIA - FLINDERS RANGES & WILPENA POUND

4-days / 3-nights guided walking with homestead and deluxe swag bush camp accommodation



The Flinders Ranges offer one of the most accessible outback destinations in Australia. Accommodation is situated on the southern edge of Wilpena Pound and the Flinders Ranges National Park. Here in this ancient landscape moulded by millions of years of geological activity, the Flinders Ranges offers some of South Australia's most spectacular outback scenery. It is home to a wondrous variety of bird and wildlife.

Situated just a 5 hour drive from Adelaide (an hour from the airport at Port Augusta), the road is sealed tarmac all the way through; a 4WD vehicle is not necessary unless preferred. Exploring the Flinders Ranges of South Australia this guided walk redefines the classic Aussie '*bush walk*', adding luxury touches to a four-day hike through 60,000 acres of private wildlife conservancy. Set against the backdrop of the Elder Range and Wilpena Pound, this is an opportunity to experience the sights and sounds, the scale and the space of outback Australia.

Cost from: **\$2395** per person, twin-share Single supplement \$1500 (guaranteed single room)

Walks operate subject to a minimum of two and maximum of 10 walkers. Prices are based on twin share accommodation. Single travellers may pay the supplement for solo occupancy or can share with another single traveller (of the same sex) at no extra cost.

Departs: Every Thursday from 1st April – 7th October 2020 and 18th – 31st March 2021
Also available every Friday in March, April, May, August and September 2020

Grade: Moderate to challenging with 6 to 15km per day over steep, hilly terrain with some mountain scrambling following thick vegetation and on rocky surfaces. Walking up to 7 hours per day with plenty of ascents and descents and across uneven ground. A good level of fitness is required.

Includes: 2 nights camping in deluxe swags on signature star beds; 1 night in an historic outback homestead; all meals including trail snacks; drinks including premium South Australian wine; support vehicle luggage transfers; hydration backpack; sock protectors, fly net; basic toiletries; National Park entry fees; expert knowledgeable guides with a satellite phone, navigation aid and UHF radio communications, first aid kit, flora and fauna identification guides, Conservation Levy.

We also offer the walk from and back to Adelaide, from \$2900 per person. Ask for details.

Accommodation: One night in a tastefully restored 150-year old traditional homestead – each of the five rooms is named after early settlers, explorers or property owners. Each guestroom has its own ensuite bathroom and opens out on a shaded verandah with views of the surrounding ranges. Two nights at bush camps with five permanent swag decks. The low timber decks are elevated and each have a half-metre corrugated iron screen around three sides, to give privacy – the fourth side is left open to the views over the countryside, while above you is the night sky and a canopy of stars. There is a shelter extension at the back of the deck should you want to sleep under cover. Your bed is a comfortable and waterproof canvas 'swag' with an all season sleeping bag with liner. Each camp site has two waterless composting toilets and bush showers with water warmed on the fire.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 - Homestead to Black's Gap Camp

Walking time @ 4-5 hours – distance @ 12km

Meet your guide at the homestead at 10.00am and, over a cup of tea, listen to an informative briefing of what to expect over the coming days and nights. Depart by road for the 35-minute drive to our starting point at Wilpena Pound Resort and set off on foot on the first leg of the trail. The distance today is approximately 12km, from Wilpena Resort into Wilpena Pound, crossing the interior before the brief ascent to the rim of the Pound. From here, enter the conservation wilderness and descend off the lip of the Pound to Black's Gap Camp.

Expect to walk into camp at around 5.30pm; take a hot bush shower and enjoy a cuppa or something a little stronger, while enjoying the evening light on the Pound behind camp. Our camp is located between Bunbinyana Range and Wilpena Pound, on a site occupied by a shepherd in the late 1850s. His stone chimney place still exists and we camp overlooking the creek where he took his water. Our guides and camp assistant prepare a three-course dinner, taken al fresco under the evening sky and accompanied by fine wine and some interesting tales about the Flinders / Wilpena area. Turn in to your deluxe swag and enjoy a night under a canopy of stars.

Day 2 - Black's Gap Camp to Elder Camp

Walking time @ 6-7 hours – distance @ 10-14km

Today's walk covers a magnificent 10 to 14km of distance – we can vary the route depending on fitness and interest. This day is arguably the most scenic, as we move out from Black's Gap into the rolling hills more suited to the sheep farming activities previously carried out across the property, with more open vistas. The first two kilometres of the hike follow the famous Heysen Trail through Black's Gap itself. We gain a fascinating insight into the pastoral history of the region as we pass through areas that once were cultivated for wheat, pausing at old shepherds' camps and mustering yards, with Red and Grey Kangaroos and emus all regular sightings. The last leg of the day will take us slightly west into the hills and up to the very base of the Elder Range among beautiful stands of native Cypress trees.

Our luggage and swags are transported by vehicle to Elder Camp, and we plan to arrive into camp around 5.30pm in time for a hot shower, a three-course dinner and another beautiful night under the stars.

Day 3 - Elder Camp to the homestead

Walking time @ 6-7 hours - distance @ 10-14km

Wake to the morning light on the Elder Range directly ahead and above you. We walk with plenty of time to stop for photographs, bird watching, botanizing and discussion. We traverse multiple habitats today, as we move south east – the first few kilometres amongst the hill country at the foot of the Elder Range, through mature Mallee and Native Pine forests as we cross Slaty Creek. This creek holds water well into the dry season and sometimes offers the opportunity to drink from crystal clear, ice cold springs. From here, we progress up to the ridge top of the beautiful Red Range before beginning our descent to Arkaba Creek. The riverbank is home to hundreds of magnificent River Red Gums, and is quite spectacular. With strategic stops along the way for rests and relaxing lunch in a shady spot, we plan to arrive at our final destination, the homestead, mid-afternoon.

Your hosts ensure a friendly and personal level of attention that is typically 'down to earth' but does not lose sight of the attention to the small details that are so important in delivering an outstanding outback experience. Enjoy a taste of luxury at the homestead: a beautifully prepared meal and some excellent South Australian wines in a quintessentially Australian outback setting – although the real luxury comes in sharing this spectacular conservancy with just a handful of other guests.

Day 4 – Tour ends at the homestead to Woolshed

Optional walking time @ 2 hours – distance @ 6km

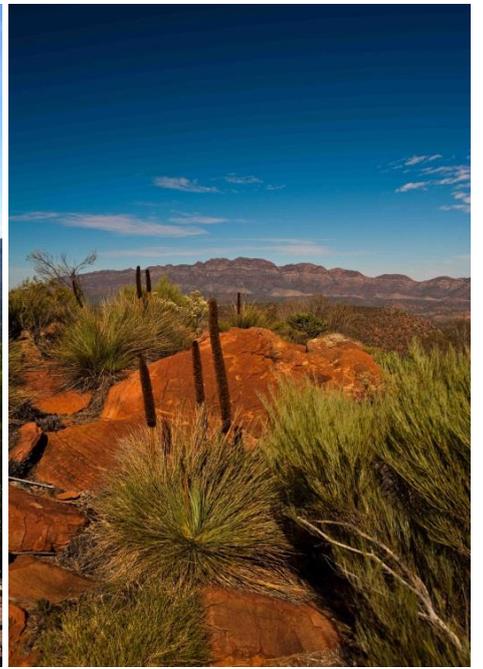
Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the homestead before check out at 11.00am. There is time to relax by the pool or take a drive or a self-guided walk along creek to the historic Woolshed where, still to this day, we find names of shearers etched on the walls, dating right back to the late 1800s.

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We offer a wide selection of guided or self-guided walks in most destinations in Europe and the United Kingdom, in Canada, the USA, China, Japan and many other areas of the world – ask for details.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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